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HISTORY

OF

Otter Tail County

MINNESOTA

ITS PEOPLE, INDUSTRIES AND INSTITUTIONS

JOHN W. MASON
Editor

With Biographical Sketches of Representative Citizens and Genealogical Records of Many of the Old Families

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VOLUME I

ILLUSTRATED

1916
B. F. BOWEN & COMPANY, Inc.
Indianapolis, Indiana

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DEDICATION

To those whose hands planted the first homes in Otter Tail county; whose love of religion and education established the first churches and schools; whose desire for good government led to the organization of civil townships and the selection of worthy public officials; whose wish for material prosperity has caused the building of mills and factories and the opening of virgin tracts of land to cultivation—to those who are gone, as well as to the many pioneers still living, is this record of their achievements dedicated.

JUL 30 '54

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EDITOR'S FOREWORD

A brief explanation of how the History of Otter Tail County was written, and who performed the great bulk of the work, should be told here. The credit for writing the history is due to Ernest V. Shockley, Ph. D., of Indianapolis, Indiana, while the responsibility for errors in historical facts not based on public records, rests on the editor.

The great bulk of the work consisted in the search of records which have been accumulating in the vaults and basement of the court house and city hall for a period of over forty-eight years. The great lack of system in the preservation of these earlier records added largely to the burden of the work. Doctor Shockley spent over one month at the court house, digging into the ancient, unsystematized and disorganized old records, files and papers of the county, bringing to light the history concealed therein.

Acknowledgment is hereby made to the patient and uniform courtesy of each and every one of the officers of the county, for their generous and valuable assistance rendered in rescuing from oblivion the story told by these records. It would be unjust to single out by name any of these officers, as all were equally kind and helpful in their efforts to make the history an accurate story of the county from its organization to the present time. The thanks of the editor are also due the scores of churches, lodges and organizations of all kinds, fraternal, social and industrial, which have generously replied to requests for information; also to *Wheelock's Weekly* for cuts of historical scenes.

The labor involved in such a work cannot be fully told in a preface. The trouble has not been what to put in, but what to keep out; to sift and select from the great bulk of proffered facts, those things that are true, and discard those things that are not authentic.

The writing of a local history graphically shows the treachery of human memory. One can hardly find two persons, witnessing the same event, who can give the same account of the circumstances. For instance, there are men living who knew Otter Tail City in 1870 and were there many times during that year. The different accounts given by them of the then county seat, its population, buildings, business and surroundings, would cover many pages of

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this history, yet no two of these old settlers tell the same tale. Each one, no doubt, gives the story as pictured in his own mind, but all cannot be true.

Men who have lived in Fergus Falls since the early seventies cannot agree on who have been postmasters of the place, and names of such are given of men who never were postmasters. Of course, in cases like this, the records will correct such mistakes.

Joe Whitford, the first settler of Fergus Falls, was killed by the Indians in the massacre of 1862, and the place of his death is located at half a dozen different localities in the county, all being given with the utmost positiveness. The history has adopted the statement of the late James Fergus, made in the *Fergus Falls Advocate* (June 29, 1872), some ten years after Whitford's death. Whitford was in the employ of Fergus and selected the site of Fergus Falls for the latter, naming it in honor of his employer; no doubt Fergus was acquainted with the circumstances and knew where Whitford was killed.

Where the truth of facts depends upon tradition, no pains have been spared to communicate with men and women supposed, or reported, to know the truth of the story to be recorded, and the account set down has been ascertained from those whose memory and statements seemed most worthy of adoption.

One great difficulty has been to secure the correct spelling of names. The collection of data relating to churches, creameries, telephone companies and other institutions has made necessary the writing of hundreds of letters of inquiry, and each letter contained a stamped and addressed envelope for reply. Those who responded generally did so in writing, and in some answers the same name would be spelled in as many as three different ways. Often the names were so poorly written that it was difficult to make out the correct spelling. The names of those organizing the sixty-two townships in the county have been taken from the original records, and in many cases it was practically impossible to decipher the spelling of these names.

No attempt has been made to write a historical romance. Many things have been presented and urged which would make a readable story, but have, in every instance, been declined where their only basis appeared to rest in the imagination of the informant.

Doubtless, the history contains some errors—that is inevitable. The Book of Inspiration, itself, is subject to criticism, and it would be strange if the history of the county, covering a period of forty-eight years since its first record was dated, written by an uninspired pen, did not contain some things subject to criticism. Notwithstanding this, we think it will remain the fullest and most accurate account ever written of the history of Otter Tail county.

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The friends who have generously rendered valuable assistance in the making of this work are too numerous to mention by name; but there are two men, oldest of the early settlers, to whom our thanks are specially due, viz.: Hon. E. E. Corliss and Ole Jorgens, the former now custodian of the state capitol at St. Paul, the latter a resident of Minneapolis, Minnesota, where he is gracefully enjoying the memories of a well-spent life, honored by all who know him.

J. W. MASON, *Editor.*

Fergus Falls, Minnesota, April 30, 1916.

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PREFACE

All life and achievement is evolution; present wisdom comes from past experience, and present commercial prosperity has come only from past exertion and sacrifice. The deeds and motives of the men who have gone before have been instrumental in shaping the destinies of later communities and states. The development of a new country was at once a task and a privilege. It required great courage, sacrifice and privation. Compare the present conditions of the people of Otter Tail county, Minnesota, with what they were five decades ago. From a trackless wilderness and virgin land, it has come to be a center of prosperity and civilization, with millions of wealth, systems of railways, educational and religious institutions, varied industries and immense agricultural and dairy interests. Can any thinking person be insensible to the fascination of the study which discloses the aspirations and efforts of the early pioneers who so strongly laid the foundation upon which has been reared the magnificent prosperity of later days? To perpetuate the story of these people and to trace and record the social, religious, educational, political and industrial progress of the community from its first inception, is the function of the local historian. A sincere purpose to preserve facts and personal memoirs that are deserving of perpetuation, and which unite the present to the past, is the motive for the present publication. The publishers desire to extend their thanks to those who have so faithfully labored to this end. Thanks are also due to the citizens of Otter Tail county for the uniform kindness with which they have regarded this undertaking, and for their many services rendered in the gaining of necessary information.

In placing the "History of Otter Tail County, Minnesota," before the citizens, the publishers can conscientiously claim that they have carried out the plan as outlined in the prospectus. Every biographical sketch in the work has been submitted to the party interested, for correction, and therefore any error of fact, if there be any, is solely due to the person for whom the sketch was prepared. Confident that our effort to please will fully meet the approbation of the public, we are,

Respectfully,

THE PUBLISHERS.

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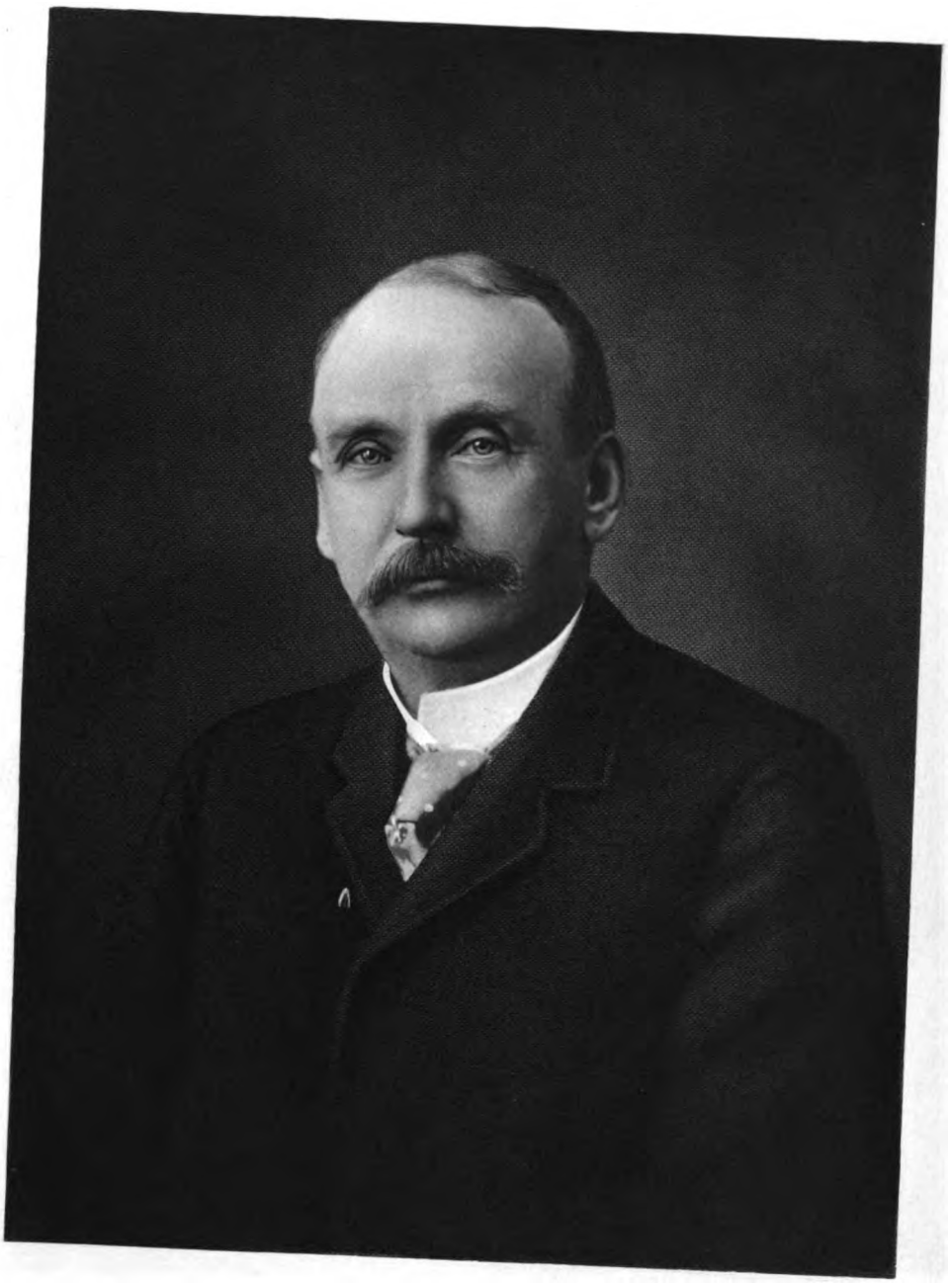

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HISTORICAL

CHAPTER I.

RELATED STATE HISTORY.

The greater part, or about two-thirds, of the territory embraced within the boundaries of Minnesota was included in the Louisiana Purchase, ceded to the United States by France in 1803. The remainder of this state, comprising the northeastern third part, lying east of the Mississippi river, was included in the country surrendered from Great Britain by the treaty of 1783, at the end of the Revolutionary War. In 1805 a grant of land nine miles square, at the confluence of the Mississippi and St. Peter (now Minnesota) rivers, was obtained from the Sioux Indians. A military post was established on the grant in 1819, and in 1820 arrangements were made for the erection of a fort, which was completed in 1822 and named Ft. Snelling, after the commanding officer, and the grant has ever since been known as the Ft. Snelling Reservation. In 1823 the first steamboat ascended the Mississippi as far as Ft. Snelling; and annually thereafter one or two trips of steamboats were made to this isolated post for a number of years.

This territory was held by the Chippewa or Ojibway and the Dakota or Sioux Indians, but adventurous pioneers had penetrated into the country along the streams tributary to the Mississippi river, and in 1836 Wisconsin territory was organized, comprising all the territory west of Lake Michigan, and including within its limits all the country west of the Great Lakes and north of Illinois, the west boundary of the territory being the Mississippi river.

INDIAN TREATIES.

In 1837 two important treaties were made with the native tribes of Indians. The first one was made by Gov. Henry Dodge, of Wisconsin, with the Ojibways, at Ft. Snelling, on the 29th of July, of that year, whereby they ceded to the United States all their pine or agricultural lands on the St. Croix river and its tributaries.

On the 29th of September, of the same year, at the city of Washington, a treaty with the Sioux was made by Joel R. Poinsett, a special commissioner representing the United States, and about twenty chiefs, accompanied by Major Taliaferro, their agent, and Scott Campbell, an interpreter.

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Through the influence and by the direction of Governor Dodge, this delegation of chiefs had proceeded to Washington for the purpose of making this treaty, by which the Dakotas, or Sioux, ceded to the United States all their lands east of the Mississippi river and all its islands. The Indians were to receive as consideration for the same $110,000 in cash, to be divided among the mixed bloods, $90,000 in payment of debts owing by the tribes, and $300,000 to be invested in five per cent. stocks, the interest of which should be paid to them annually.

In 1848 Wisconsin adopted a state constitution, but ignored the enabling act, and made the northern part of the western boundary of the state along the line of the St. Louis and Rum rivers, which was not accepted by the United States government, and the boundary line from the Mississippi river to Lake Superior became fixed, as in the enabling act, on the line of the St. Croix river and in a direct line to the mouth of the St. Louis river.

After the acceptance of the Wisconsin constitution, in May, 1848, the territory north and west of the St. Croix and Mississippi rivers being practicaly without a government, the Hon. John Catlin, claiming to be still secretary and acting governor of Wisconsin territory, issued a proclamation for a special election, to elect a delegate to Congress. The election was held on October 30, and Hon. H. H. Sibley was chosen delegate, and after some delay was admitted as such into the Congress of the United States.

TERRITORIAL GOVERNMENT ESTABLISHED.

On March 3, 1849, Congress passed an act to establish the territorial government of Minnesota. It fixed the seat of government at St. Paul, and established the southern boundary of the territory along the north and west boundary line of the state of Iowa, from the Mississippi river to the Missouri river, the western boundary through the middle of the channel of the Missouri river to the mouth of the White Earth river, and up the middle of the channel of the White Earth river to the boundary line between the United States and Great Britain, the northern boundary running thence easterly and southeasterly on the international boundary line to Lake Superior, and the eastern boundary running thence in a straight line to the northermost point of the state of Wisconsin, and following the north and west boundary of said state down the St. Croix and Mississippi rivers to the place of beginning. At this time the population of the territory was mainly in the section east of the Mississippi river, and the settlers were almost entirely engaged in lumbering. The territorial government was declared fully organized, June 1, 1849, by Hon. Alexander Ramsey, who had been appointed first territorial governor. The year 1848 was noted as the year of excitement from the discovery of gold in California, and the eyes of

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many thousands of people throughout the east were turned westward, where opportunities were opening for the growth of new states. Although at the organization of the territory there was scarcely a thousand people, within a year the census of 1850 gave to the territory a population of 6,077. Of this number, however, 1,134 residents were credited to the northernmost part of the territory on the Red River of the North, many of these being half-breeds, and the early pioneers engaged in the fur trade, brought there through the influence of the Hudson Bay Company.

The first territorial election was held on August 1, 1849.

The first session of the territorial Legislature commenced in St. Paul, September 3, 1849, during which counties were established and a code of laws enacted. The second session was commenced in January, 1851, at which time the capitol was located at St. Paul, the university at St. Anthony, and the state prison at Stillwater.

THE COUNCIL AT TRAVERSE DES SIOUX.

In 1851 three treaties were made with the Sioux and with the Ojibway bands of Indians, whereby large tracts of lands were relinquished to the United States. In view of the great extent of country desired, and the importance of the transaction, and the long continued friendship of the Dakota nation, President Fillmore departed from the usual mode of appointing commissioners, and deputed the Hon. Luke Lea, the commissioner of Indian affairs, and Gov. Alexander Ramsey to meet the representatives of the Dakotas, and to conclude with them a treaty for such lands as they might be willing to sell.

On the 27th of June, 1851, Commissioner Lea arrived in St. Paul on the steamboat "Excelsior," and on the 29th he, in company with Governor Ramsey, landed at Traverse des Sioux, where the great council was to be held and the treaty consummated with the Sisseton and Wahpeton bands of Sioux. Great delay in the proceedings was caused by the non-arrival of certain Sioux chiefs from the upper country, and it was not until the 18th of July that the council convened and the preliminaries to the treaty commenced. During this interval of about twenty days they all entertained themselves as best they could with races, dances, suppers, sham fights, and all sorts of fun.

On the 18th of July, all the chiefs having arrived, proclamation was made, and being convened in grand council and the pipe of peace having been passed around, the council was opened by an address from Governor Ramsey. On the 23rd of July the treaty was concluded and signed by the chiefs, by which they ceded to the United States all the lands claimed by these bands east of the Sioux Wood (or Bois des Sioux), and Big Sioux rivers and Lake Traverse to the Mississippi, excepting a reservation one

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hundred miles long by twenty miles wide, on the upper part of the Minnesota river. By this treaty the Indians were to remove within two years to the reservation; to receive from the government, after removal $275,000, to enable them to settle up their affairs and to become established in their new home; and $30,000 was to be expended in breaking land, erecting mills and establishing a manual training school. They were also to receive for fifty years from that time, an annuity of $68,000, payable as follows: Cash, $40,000; civilization fund, $12,000; goods and provisions, $10,000; education fund, $6,000.

About a week later, on the 29th of July, Governor Ramsey and Commissioner Lea met the chiefs and leading men of the Med-ay-wakanton and Wah-pay-koo-tay bands of Sioux at a grand council at Mendota, to negotiate another treaty for the sale of other lands, which was concluded on the 5th of August, being signed by sixty-four chiefs, head men and warriors. In the treaty these bands of Indians ceded and relinquished all their lands in territory of Minnesota and state of Iowa, and in consideration thereof the United States was to reserve for them a tract of the average width of ten miles on either side of the Minnesota river, and bounded on the west by the Tehay-tam-bay and Yellow Medicine rivers, on the east by the Little Rock river, and a line running due south from the mouth to the Waraju river; and to pay them the following sums of money: For settling debts and aid in removal, $220,000; for erection of buildings and opening farms, $30,000; civilization fund, to be paid annually, $12,000; educational fund, paid annually, $6,000; goods and provisions, annually, $10,000; cash, $30,000. The annuities were to continue for fifty years from the date of the treaty.

These two treaties of 1851 at Traverse des Sioux and Mendota acquired for white settlement nearly 24,000,000 acres of the finest lands in the world. The cessions were mostly in Minnesota, but included about an eighth part, or nearly 3,000,000 acres, in the state of Iowa, between the line of the old "neutral ground" and the northern and western boundaries of the state. That tract of country, and generally all lands in Iowa, claimed by the Sioux, were therefore embraced in the articles of cession of both treaties.

The Senate of the United States, on the 23rd of June, 1852, ratified the treaties, with amendments to each, which amendments were subsequently accepted by the Indians, and on the 24th of February, 1853, President Millard Fillmore issued his proclamation accepting, ratifying and confirming each of the said treaties as amended. The total lands in the present state of Minnesota relinquished to the government by these treaties exceeded 19,000,000 acres; and they also ceded about 1,750,000 acres in South Dakota, besides the tract described in Iowa.

The third treaty of 1851 was effected by Governor Ramsey with the

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Red Lake and Pembina bands of Ojibways at Pembina, by which they ceded certain territory, sixty-five miles in width by one hundred and fifty miles in length, intersected by the Red River of the North. This treaty was not ratified by the government.

After the ratification of the treaties with the Sioux, a great wave of immigration set in from all the eastern states, and an era of speculation started which probably has never been excelled in any portion of the west. A census, taken in 1857, gave a population of 150,037.

INDIAN HUNTERS CAUSE TROUBLE.

Notwithstanding there was an abundant supply of good land outside of the limits of the land ceded under these treaties, the adventurous spirit of the pioneers led many of them to settle on the extreme limits of the grant, and in immediate proximity to the Indian settlements. In the southwestern portion of the state, particularly, settlements were made close to the boundary line of Iowa and north and west of Spirit lake. Some were in Iowa and some were in Minnesota, and all were within the jurisdiction of the Indian agent resident in the territory of Minnesota. Although the Indians were living on the reservation lands west of these settlements, in their hunting expeditions they were accustomed to return to the ceded lands. In a general way the Indians were civil, and committed only petty depredations; but their visits were at times annoying. Among the Indians there was a single band, under the leadership of Ink-pa-du-ta, or the Scarlet Point, of about fifteen lodges, which had been for many years an independent band and of a thieving, vagabondish character (really outlaws from the Sioux nation, and not represented in the treaties of 1851), who had taken possession of a strip of land running on both sides of the boundary lines of Iowa and Minnesota, and extending to the Missouri river. In March, 1857, a few of these Indians were hunting in the neighborhood of Rock river and one of them was bitten by a dog belonging to a white man. The dog was killed by the Indian, and in return the owner of the dog made an assault upon the Indian, and afterward gathered his neighbors, and they went to the Indian camp and disarmed them. The arms were afterward returned to them, and the party moved northeast, arriving at the Spirit Lake settlement about the 6th of March, where they massacred the men and took four women into captivity. Other settlements were attacked, and altogether forty-two settlers were killed. Two of the women were afterward rescued through the efforts of Hon. Charles E. Flandreau, then the Indian agent. An effort was made to punish this band of savages, but all escaped except the eldest son of Ink-pa-du-ta, who had ventured into the camp of other Sioux, near the agency, and was killed in an attempt to capture him.

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TOWN-SITE SPECULATION.

In 1855 and 1856 town-site speculation became the absorbing thought, and when the panic of 1857 set in, Minnesota was soon in a deplorable condition. The demand for an extensive railroad system and a state government had originated in the flush times of 1856 and 1857, and on February 26, 1857, Congress passed an act authorizing a constitutional convention, and granting a large amount of lands in aid of public schools. On March 3, 1857, an act of Congress was approved making a large grant of lands in aid of railroads.

The election of members of the Constitutional Convention was held on June 1, 1857, and the result was an almost equal division representing the Democratic and Republican parties. So close was this division, and there being some contested seats, when the convention assembled, on July 13, two distinct organizations were made, each proceeding to frame a Constitution, but finally, by conference committees, they united in one document, which was submitted to a vote of the people on October 13, and was adopted almost unanimously. By this Constitution the boundaries of the state were changed on the west, making the Red River of the North the line, up the Bois des Sioux, and thence extending along that river and through Lake Traverse and Big Stone lake, and by a direct south line to the north boundary of Iowa.

This Constitution provided for an election of state officers at the same time of voting upon the adoption of the Constitution, resulting, by a close vote, in the election of the Democratic nominees. The first state Legislature was convened on the 2nd of December, 1857, and continued in session until March 25, 1858, when a recess was taken until after the state should be admitted. Some doubts were raised as to the legality of the acts of the Legislature previous to admission by Congress. The act of admission was passed and approved, May 11, 1858. The Legislature again assembled in June, and finally adjourned, August 12, 1858. During this prolonged session the embryo state was without funds, and a loan of $250,000 was authorized; but as the acts of the Legislature before admission were somewhat irregular, the loan could not be readily negotiated. To tide over the difficulty state warrants were issued in the form of bank notes, and passed current, with more or less discount, until the summer of 1858, when they were redeemed from the proceeds of the loan consummated after the admission of the state.

RAILROAD BONDS ISSUED.

The first Legislature worked diligently in what they considered the best interest of the state, and as the grant of lands by the United States in aid of railroads within the state had to be turned over to companies, a

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large part of the session was devoted to railroad legislation. The scheme of further aid to companies who might be willing to undertake the building of railroads was originated, and was commonly denominated the "Five Million Loan Bill," contemplating the loan of the credit of the state, to that amount, in such sums as would be paid upon the grading and final completion of certain miles of road. On a submission of this law to the people it was adopted by a large majority. The opposition at the time of the vote upon this measure was very bitter, and continued after bonds were being issued, and with the dissatisfaction arising from the small amount of work completed and the large amount of bonds issued, threatenings of repudiation advocated by leading men in the state caused a distrust in financial circles and a final collapse of the whole scheme, with the foreclosure of the mortgages taken by the state upon the railroad lands and franchises, and the abandonment of all railroad construction for the time being. The total amount of bonds issued under this provision of the constitution was $2,275,000. By the foreclosure proceedings the state acquired about 250 miles of graded road, the franchises of the companies and the lands, amounting to five million of acres, as indemnity for this issue of bonds. Notwithstanding the state had acquired all the rights, including the improvements of the railroad companies, the feeling against any settlement of the bonds was strong enough to secure an amendment to the constitution in 1860, prohibiting the passage of any law levying a tax or making other provision for the payment of the principal or interest of these bonds without having the same submitted to a vote of the people and adopted.

The two years following the crash of 1857 were replete with financial disaster and a shrinkage of inflated values in town-sites; but the country was filling up with farmers, and the rich soil of the state was giving abundant harvests. The political contest of 1859 was bitter, and resulted in the Republican party carrying the state, both for state officers and the Legislature

The census of 1860 gave the state a population of 172,023. During this year there was great hope of a largely increased immigration into the county; but the political situation in the Union, starting with the opening of the presidential campaign of that year, soon indicated a disturbing element throughout the country, and distrust and depression were manifest on all sides which was not allayed by the result of the presidential election. The war period, commencing with the time of the President's proclamation in April, 1861, to the final close of the rebellion in 1865, did not permit any material growth in the state. About twenty-two thousand of her able-bodied citizens volunteered and were enlisted in the Union army.

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UNREST AMONG THE INDIANS.

The Indian reservation set apart by the treaties of 1851, a tract twenty miles wide on the upper part of the Minnesota river, embracing some of the finest lands in the state, was becoming a barrier to settlements in the upper Minnesota valley. Settlers had taken lands close up to the reservation, and there was considerable complaint that Indians were coming off the reservation and committing petty depredations, and the Indians had more or less complaints to make regarding the extortions practiced by the post traders. The encroachments of the whites were viewed with suspicion by the Indians, and sooner or later, from these causes alone, a conflict would probably have occurred. The War of the Rebellion, calling away so many of the able-bodied men of the state, left the frontier settlements almost defenseless, and doubtless caused the younger portion of the tribes to become more offensive to the settlers and more exacting in their demands.

The lands embraced within the reservation under the treaties of 1851 were in the very heart of Minnesota, and, considering the forests and streams, were the choicest of farming lands. The settlers on the border were anxiously coveting this "Garden of Eden." A sentiment was created throughout the state that the Indians should abandon the tribal relations and become civilized. To this end the head men of the Dakota nation were induced, in 1858, to go to Washington, under the charge of Hon. Joseph R. Brown, in whom they had great confidence, for the purpose of negotiating for the whole or a part of this reservation. Treaties were signed ceding the ten-mile strip on the north side of the river, upon the payment of $140,000, and the government provided that every head of a family or single person over the age of twenty-one adopting a civilized life should secure in fee eighty acres of land. From some cause the payments of $140,000 were never made, and there was great dissatisfaction on account of this treaty, among those of the tribes who were adverse to accepting the condition of civilization; and from the fact that there was no money divided among them on account of this relinquishment a bitter dissension arose between the older chiefs and the younger members, the latter claiming that they had been robbed either by the chiefs or by the government, and they proposed to have the settlement, peaceful or otherwise

This internal strife was augmented from year to year by the withdrawal of families who were willing to accept the civilization fund, the number in three years succeeding the treaty amounting to one hundred and sixty persons. They were, however, still annuity Indians, and claimed the right to be heard in the councils. The annuity Indians, all told, numbered about six thousand two hundred, and the annual cash payment to each person

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amounted to about fifteen dollars. The Indians were treated as wards of the United States. Two agencies were established, around which were gathered storekeepers to sell the Indians goods in anticipation of the annuity payments; and, usually, the annual payment was simply a settlement of the claims of the traders, who took the risk of furnishing the goods in advance. That there was injustice practiced upon the Indians is doubtless true; probably not so great as the disaffected Indians imagined. There was enough, however, to make the time of the annual payment an anxious period, for fear of an outbreak. The failure of the government in its attempt to punish the Spirit Lake murderers had a tendency to create a feeling among the leaders of the rebellious spirit that if they could only unite the whole body of Sioux in an uprising they could make a successful attack upon the settlers, and perhaps regain the lands formerly held by the Indians. The War of the Rebellion, starting in 1861, gave renewed energy to the discontent. The Indians were well aware of the reverses of the Union forces during the first year of the war. The calls for troops were taking the able-bodied men from the farms, and many of the half-breeds had volunteered for the army. All these conditions had a disquieting effect, and, added to this, in 1862 the June payment was not made; and as there was no satisfactory answer for the delay, the traders took advantage of the necessities of the Indians and insinuated that perhaps the government would go to pieces, and there would be no further payments. The missionaries endeavored to counteract these evil influences, and, with the aid of the civilized Indians, succeeded in averting deliberate outbreak. The delay in payment of annuities, however, tended to keep up the discontent, particularly among the younger braves, who were the hunters. Their vagabond life brought them into the settlements, and in contact with the whites; and their worthless, lazy habits made them offensive to the families, as beggars of meals or money, or anything that took their fancy.

MASSACRE OF 1862.

These are, in brief, the circumstances which led up to the great massacre of 1862, which for a short time threatened the lives of all the settlers on the western boundary of the state. There was no concerted action for the massacre, and to some extent there is an uncertainty as to why the first murders were committed. Four young men or boys are believed to have commenced the massacre, in a spirit of bravado, making a threatening attack first upon a family, driving them from their home, and afterward following them to a neighbor's house, where, after an altercation with the families, they killed three men and two women. These occurrences took place on the 17th of August, in the township of Acton, twelve miles west of Litchfield. Realizing that if they remained in the vicinity punishment

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would soon overtake their murderous acts, they lost no time in going back to camp, relating what they had done, and asking protection. A hasty consultation was had between two of the chiefs; they realized that the murderers must be given up, or the annuities would be stopped, and a war of extermination would be inaugurated. They chose to stand by the murderers, and immediately following there was a general uprising of the entire Sioux bands. So swift were their movements, before any effective resistance could be brought against them, that about eight hundred of the settlers, men, women and children were murdered within a few days. The prompt action of the state authorities, aided by the national government, resulted in the capture of about 2,000 of the belligerent Indians and the withdrawal of the remainder beyond the boundaries of the state, into the wilds of Dakota. Of the captured Indians, 303 were found guilty of murder and rape, and were condemned to death by a military court-martial. Of this number 265 were reprieved by President Lincoln, and the remainder, thirty-eight of the most prominent engaged in the massacre, were hung in Mankato on the 26th of December, 1862. The next year the general government authorized an expedition against the Indians who had escaped to the Dakota plains, because of their constant raids in small squads on the frontiers of the state for the purpose of horse-stealing and marauding upon adventurous settlers who might risk going back to their abandoned farms. After two decisive encounters, the Indians retreated beyond the Missouri river, and in 1864 another expedition was sent forward and a final settlement of the Sioux outbreak was accomplished, by a confiscation and surrender of the ponies and arms of most of the bands hostile to the government.

The several tribes of Sioux Indians were engaged in this massacre, and were the representatives of the tribes that had made the cession of lands in 1851, under the first and second treaties of that year. Under these treaties the government had set aside trust funds of $2,520,000, from which there was paid annually the sum of $126,000. Settlers who had lost property urged their claims for indemnity, and Congress promptly established a commission to receive all claims and investigate the facts. The commission was duly organized and established headquarters in the city of St. Paul, and carefully examined all the claims presented. The total number filed was 2,940, with damages amounting to $2,458,795.16. The commission allowed 2,635 claims, and cut down the damages to $1,370,374. By act of Congress these claims were paid, and the annuities and all further payments to the tribes were stopped. The state was also reimbursed for extraordinary expenses incurred during the period of insurrection.

On the 2nd of October, 1863, a treaty was concluded at the old crossing of Red Lake river, about twelve miles east of the present city of

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Crookston by Alexander Ramsey and Ashley C. Morrill, and the chiefs and head men of the Red Lake and Pembina bands of Ojibway Indians, for the cession of a large tract of country, being the same land embraced in one of the treaties of 1851, but not ratified at that time, of which the boundaries are as follow: Commencing at the intersection of the national boundary with the Lake of the Woods; thence in a southwest direction to the head of Thief river; thence following that stream to its mouth; thence southeasterly in a direct line toward the head of Wild Rice river; and thence following the boundary of the Pillager cession of 1855 to the mouth of said river; thence up the channel of the Red river to the mouth of the Cheyenne; thence up said river to Stump lake, near the eastern extremity of Devil's lake; thence north to the international boundary; and thence east on said boundary to the place of beginning. It embraced all of the Red River valley in Minnesota and Dakota, except a small portion previously ceded, and was estimated to contain 11,000,000 acres. This treaty was ratified by the Senate, with amendments, March 1, 1864. The Indians, on the 12th of April, 1864 assented to the amendments, and President Lincoln, by his proclamation of the 5th of May, 1864, confirmed the treaty.

A PERIOD OF RAPID DEVELOPMENT.

The close of the Civil War in the spring of 1865, and the return of the soldiers, and the assurance of no further depredations from the Sioux Indians, started a new era of prosperity and rapid growth. The Legislature, in the meantime, had granted charters on the foreclosed roadbeds and lands to new railroad companies, and the construction of roads was furnishing abundant labor to all who were coming to the state. The population at this time was 250,099, and in 1870 the population had increased to 439,706, nearly doubling in five years. The railroad companies had within the same period constructed nearly 1,000 miles of railroad, and continued their building with even greater vigor until the financial crisis of 1873 brought all public enterprises again to a stand, and produced stagnation in all the growing towns The farmers had been active in developing the country, and were adding largely to the productions of the state when the grasshopper raids, for the time being, destroyed the growing crops, and caused great financial distress for two or three years.

The census of 1875 gave the state a population of 597,407, still showing a fair increase, but small in comparison with the five years following the close of the rebellion. By 1878 the state had fairly recovered from the financial crash of 1873, but speculation has at no time since 1878 been so reckless as during the two periods ending in 1857 and 1873.

Along with the prosperity of the state, caused so largely by the rapid railroad building, the state pride began to assert itself with more force,

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and the prominent citizens continued to urge an adjustment of the dishonored railroad bonds. In 1877 a proposition setting aside the proceeds of 500,000 acres for internal improvement lands in settlement was by act of the Legislature submitted to a vote at a special election called for the 12th of June, and was voted down by the decisive vote of 59,176 against to 17,324 votes for, the proposition. This vote was largely owing to the fact that the state at that time had almost an entire new population that had come into the state long after the bonds were issued and had no definite knowledge of the history of the original indebtedness.

In 1881 the Legislature enacted a law providing for the adjustment of these bonds and designating the judges of the supreme court as a commission to make the settlement. The constitutionality of this law was questioned, a writ of injunction was served, and the final determination of the supreme bench was that the law was unconstitutional, as also the amendment of 1860, prohibiting any settlement without a vote of the people. This latter act had previously been determined unconstitutional by the supreme court of the United States. An extra session of the Legislature was called in October of the same year, when the final adjustment was authorized by act of the Legislature, on a basis of fifty per cent. of the amount nominally due, and, after a careful examination of all the claims presented, the bond question was forever set at rest by the issue of adjustment bonds, to the amount of $4,282,000, to parties entitled to receive them. For the payment of these bonds the proposition of setting aside the proceeds of the 500,000 acres of internal improvement lands was again submitted to the general election in 1881, and by a vote of 82,435 votes in favor, and 24,526 votes against, the action of the Legislature was ratified and the stigma of repudiation removed, which had been fastened upon the state by the popular vote of 1877.

In 1880 the national census gave the state a population of 780,773, and the state census of 1885 swelled these figures to 1,117,798, indicating the extraordinary growth of forty-three per cent.; but an examination of the figures shows that the growth was mainly confined to the cities, being nearly eighty per cent. of increase, while in the farming community and small towns the percentage of increase was only twenty per cent.

During the ten years between 1880 and 1890 there was a period of great activity in the railroad building, and 2,310 miles of road were put in operation. This alone gave great energy to the business of the state, and caused a large increase in the population of the cities, and gradually culminated in a most extravagant real estate boom, and an era of the wildest speculation. In the country the growth was normal over the entire state, although large numbers of farmers in the southern half of the state were

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attracted to the plains of Dakota, where great activity was being developed by the pushing of railroads into different sections of the territory.

DIVERSIFIED FARMING INTERESTS.

The settlement of the Dakotas and the consequent breaking up of the virgin land, after the year 1885, almost doubled the wheat yield of the northwestern states, so that the farmers of Minnesota were soon confronted with the question whether wheat should continue to be their leading staple. In the southern part of the state the wheat return was not enough per acre to yield any profit to the farmer at the reduced prices; and gradually methods have changed, so that the leading agricultural industries now include dairying, stock raising, and general diversified farming. It seems probable that Minnesota will hold her place as the greatest wheat-producing state, and will also earn a greater reputation as the best all-round farming state in the Union.

The national census of 1890 gave the state a population of 1,301,826, an increase of 184,028 in five years, of which amount about 70,000 increase went to the cities and 114,000 to the country districts, showing eighteen per cent. increase in the cities and fifteen per cent. increase in the country. The state census of 1895 showed an increase of 272,793, or 21.95 per cent., in the preceding five years, giving a total population of 1,574,619.

According to the census of 1910 the population of Minnesota was 2,075,708, showing an increase of 17.8 per cent. during the preceding decade. The population of the five largest cities was as follow: Minneapolis, 301,408; St. Paul, 214,744; Duluth, 78,466; Winona, 18,583; and Stiliwater 10,198.

Minnesota was the first state of the Union to respond to the call of the President for volunteers at the beginning of the war with Spain, in April, 1898. Three regiments, designated as the Twelfth, Thirteenth and Fourteen Regiments of Minnesota Volunteers, were mobilized at St. Paul, April 29, and were mustered into the United State service on May 7 and 8. The Fifteenth Regiment was mustered into service on July 18. In total this state furnished 5,315 officers and enlisted men for the volunteer army. At the close of the war the Twelfth and Fourteenth Regiments returned to Minnesota, and were mustered out of service in November. The Fifteenth Regiment continued in service until March 27, 1899; and the Thirteenth Regiment, after more than a year of service in the Philippine Islands, was mustered out on October 3, 1899.

NAME.

Minnesota derives its name from the river which was named "Minisota" by the Dakotas, pronounced "Min-nee-sotah," applied to the stream, in its

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natural state in the summer season, after the waters were cleared from the roiling caused by the spring floods. Mini, water; sotah, sky-colored. Apparently to secure the correct pronunciation in English letters, the convention called at Stillwater, in 1848, for the purpose of procuring a territorial organization, instructed their delegates to see that the name of the territory should be written Min-ne-sota.

GEOGRAPHY.

Geographically, Minnesota occupies the exact center of the continent of North America, midway between the Atlantic and Pacific oceans, and also midway between Hudson bay and the Gulf of Mexico. This state is bounded on the south by Iowa, on the west by South and North Dakota, on the north by Manitoba and Ontario, and on the east by Wisconsin. It extends from latitude 43 degrees 30 minutes, to 49 degrees 24 minutes, and from 89 degrees 29 minutes, to 97 degrees 15 minutes, west longitude. From its southern boundary to the northern is about 400 miles, and from its most eastern to the extreme western point about 354 miles.

AREA.

Minnesota is, in area, the tenth state of the Union. It contains 84,287 square miles, or about 53,943,379 acres, of which 3,608,012 acres are water. In altitude it appears to be one of the highest portions of the continent, as the headwaters of three great river systems are found in its limits, those of streams flowing northward to Hudson bay, eastward to the Atlantic ocean, and southward to the Gulf of Mexico.

About half of this surface, on the south and west, consists of rolling prairie, interspersed with frequent groves, oak openings and belts of hardwood timber, watered by numberless lakes and streams, and covered with a warm, dark soil of great fertility. The rest, embracing the elevated district immediately west and north of Lake Superior, consists mainly of rich mineral ranges and of the pine forests which clothe the headwaters of the Mississippi, affording extensive supplies of lumber. There is but a very small percentage of broken, rocky or worthless land in the state. Nearly all is arable.

RIVERS.

Numerous rivers and watercourses give the state excellent drainage. But few states are so well watered as Minnesota. Its navigable rivers are the Mississippi, the Minnesota, the St. Croix, the St. Louis, the Red River of the North, and the Red Lake river, all of which, near their sources, have extensive water powers; while a number of smaller streams such as Rum river and Snake river, both valuable for lumbering, the Cannon and Zumbro rivers, the Vermilion, Crow, Blue Earth, Des Moines, Cottonwood, Chippewa, LeSueur, Root, Elk and Sauk rivers, also furnish fine water powers.

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These with their tributaries and a host of lesser streams penetrate every portion of the state. Some of the water powers furnished by these streams are among the finest in America, and many of them have been utilized for manufacturing purposes.

LAKES.

The lakes of Minnesota are more numerous and varied in form than in any other state in the Union. Bordering on the northeast corner of the state for one hundred and fifty miles, the waters of the great Lake Superior wash its shores. Within the state there are about ten thousand lakes, the largest of which is Red lake, in the central northern part of the state, bordering partly by dense pine forests, with its overflow through Red Lake river, by a devious course, into the Red River of the North. On the same northern slope, in St. Louis county, is the beautiful Vermilion lake, with its tributaries, at the edge of the great Vermilion iron range, and flowing into Rainy lake, on the northern boundary, and then through Rainy Lake river into the Lake of the Woods, and thence into Lake Winnipeg, and finally into Hudson bay. On the southern slope of the state is Itasca lake, the source of the Mississippi, with Cass lake, Lake Winnibigoshish, Leech lake, and other innumerable lakes, all adding volume to the water of the Mississippi, eventually flowing into the Gulf of Mexico. Then there is Mille Lacs, the source of Rum river, and the picturesque Lake Minnetonka. These are the largest lakes in the state. Of these, however, only Minnetonka, White Bear, Bald Eagle and Chisago lakes have so far been much utilized as summer resorts. The incomparable park region, traversed by the Great Northern and Northern Pacific railroads, is the paradise of summer idlers, of hunters and fishermen; but it is not in this portion alone that all the beautiful lakes are found. The northeastern and the southwestern sections each have numerous lakes to attract the summer visitor.

There is an undoubted modification of the climate of the state, caused by these numerous bodies of water, giving a most delightful summer temperature.

Fine varieties of fish are abundant in all these lakes; and the state expends annually thousands of dollars, through a game and fish commission, to improve the varieties and to prevent their wanton destruction.

ELEVATION.

Surveys with leveling from the sea show that the shore of Lake Superior is the lowest land in the state, 602 feet above sea level. The waters of the northeastern part of the state south of the Mesabi iron range flow into Lake Superior, and are carried to the Atlantic ocean. The Mississippi river, having its chief source in Lake Itasca, at 1,466 feet elevation, runs in a southerly direction, leaving the state at 620 feet above sea level.

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The Red River of the North, rising in the north, near Itasca lake, at a height of 1,600 feet above the ocean, after a circuitous route south and west to Breckenridge, in Wilkin county, and then flowing north along its great valley, leaves the state at an elevation of 750 feet. The average elevation of the state is given at about 1,275 feet. The highest elevation is the Misquah hills, in Cook county, 2,230 feet.

CLIMATE.

The elevation of Minnesota above the sea, its fine drainage, and the dryness of the atmosphere give it a climate of unusual salubrity and pleasantness. It has an annual mean temperature of 44 degrees, while its mean summer temperature is 70 degrees, the same as that of middle Illinois and Ohio, southern Pennsylvania, etc. The excessive heats of summer often felt in other states are here tempered by the cooling breezes. Its high latitude gives it correspondingly longer days in summer than states further south, and during the growing season there are two and one-half hours more sunshine than in the latitude of Cincinnati. This, taken in connection with the abundant rainfall of early summer, accounts for the rapid and vigorous growth of crops in Minnesota, and their early maturity. The cool breezes and cool nights in summer prevent the debilitating effects of heat often felt in low latitudes. The winter climate is one of the attractive features of the state. Its uniformity, and prevailing freedom from thaws and excessive spells of cold, severe weather or heavy snow storms, and its dryness, together with the bright sunshine and electrical condition of the air, all tend to enhance the personal comfort of the resident, and make outdoor life and labor a pleasure.

These features tend to make this climate the healthiest in the Union. It gives life and briskness to those performing manual labor, enabling them to do more work than in a damper or duller climate.

CHRONOLOGICAL.

In the following list some of the more important events in the state, from the earliest explorations to the present time, are set forth in chronological order:

1635. Jean Nicollet, an explorer from France, who had wintered in the neighborhood of Green Bay, brought to Montreal the first mention of the aborigines of Minnesota.

1659-60. Grosseilliers and Radisson wintered among the Sioux of the Mille Lacs region, Minnesota, being its first white explorers. In a previous expedition, four years earlier, they are thought to have come to Prairie Island, west of the main channel of the Mississippi, between Red Wing and Hastings.

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1661 Father Rene Menard left Kewennaw, on Lake Superior, to visit the Hurons, then in northern Wisconsin, and was lost near the sources of the Black and Chippewa rivers. His breviary and cassock were said to have been found among the Sioux.

1679. July 2, Daniel Greyselon Du Lhut (Duluth) held a council with the Sioux at their principal settlement on the shore of Mille Lacs. Du Lhut, in June, 1680, by way of the St. Croix river, reached the Mississippi and met Hennepin.

1680 Louis Hennepin, after captivity in the village of Mille Lacs Sioux, first saw the Falls of St. Anthony.

1689 May 8, Nicholas Perrot, at his Ft., St. Antoine, on the Wisconsin shore of Lake Pepin, laid formal claim to the surrounding country for France. He built a fort also on the Minnesota shore of this lake, near its outlet.

1695. LeSueur built a fort or trading post on Isle Pelee, now called Prairie Island, above Lake Pepin.

1700. LeSueur established Ft. L'Huillier, on the Blue Earth river (near the mouth of the LeSueur), and first supplied the Sioux with firearms.

1727 The French established a third fort on Lake Pepin, with Sieur de La Perriere as commander.

1728. Great flood in the Mississippi.

1763 By the treaty of Versailles, France ceded Minnesota, east of the Mississippi, to England, and west of it to Spain.

1766 Capt. Jonathan Carver visited St. Anthony falls and Minnesota river. He claimed to have made a treaty with the Indians the following spring, in a cave afterward called "Carver's Cave," within the present limits of St. Paul, at which he said they ceded to him an immense tract of land, long known as "Carver's Claim," but never recognized by the government.

1796. Laws of the Ordinance of 1787 extended over the Northwest territory, including the northeastern third of Minnesota, east of the Mississippi river.

1798-99. The Northwestern Fur Company established itself in Minnesota.

1800. May 7, that part of Minnesota east of the Mississippi became a part of Indiana by the division of Ohio.

1803. April 30, that part of Minnesota west of the Mississippi, for the preceding forty years to possession of Spain as a part of Louisiana, was ceded to the United States by Napoleon Bonaparte, who had just obtained it from Spain.

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1803-04. William Morrison, the first known white man to discover the source of the Mississippi river, visited Elk lake and explored the streams entering into the lake forming the head of the river.

1805. Lieut. Z. M. Pike visited Minnesota to establish government relations there, and obtained the Ft. Snelling reservation from the Dakotas.

1812. The Dakotas, Ojibways and Winnebagoes, under the lead of hostile traders, joined the British during the war. Red river colony established by Lord Selkirk.

1819. Minnesota, east of the Mississippi river, became a part of Crawford county, Michigan. Ft. Snelling established, and a post at Mendota occupied by troops, under command of Col. Leavenworth. Maj. L. Taliaferro appointed Indian agent, arriving on April 19.

1820. Corner stone of Ft. Snelling laid on September 10. Governor Cass visits Minnesota and makes a treaty of peace between the Sioux and Ojibways at Ft. Snelling. Col. Josiah Snelling appointed to the command of the latter post.

1823. The first steamboat arrived at Mendota, May 10, Major Taliaferro and Beltrami being passengers. Maj. Stephen H. Long explored Minnesota river, the Red river valley, and the northern frontier. Beltrami explored sources of the Mississippi.

1826 Great flood on the Red river; a part of the colony driven to Minnesota, settling near Ft. Snelling.

1832. Schoolcraft explored sources of Mississippi river, and named Lake Itasca (formerly called Elk lake).

1833 First mission established at Leech lake by Rev. W. T. Boutwell.

1834. The portion of Minnesota west of the Mississippi attached to Michigan. Gen. H. H. Sibley settled at Mendota.

1835 Catlin and Featherstonhaugh visited Minnesota.

1836. The territory of Wisconsin organized, embracing the part of Minnesota east of the Mississippi, the part on the west being attached to Iowa. Nicollet visited Minnesota.

1837 Governor Dodge, of Wisconsin, made a treaty at Ft. Snelling with the Ojibways, by which the latter ceded all their pine lands on the St. Croix and its tributaries; a treaty was also effected at Washington with a deputation of Dakotas for their lands east of the Mississippi. These treaties led the way to the first actual settlements within the area of Minnesota.

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1838. The treaty ratified by Congress. Franklin Steele makes a claim at St. Anthony falls. Pierre Parrant makes a claim and builds a shanty on the present site of St. Paul.

1839 St. Croix county established.

1843. Stillwater settled.

1846. August 6, the Wisconsin enabling act.

1847. The Wisconsin Constitutional Convention meets. The town of St. Paul surveyed, platted and recorded in St. Croix county register of deeds' office. First improvement of the water power at the Falls of St. Anthony.

1848. May 29, Wisconsin admitted, leaving the area of Minnesota without a government. August 26, the "Stillwater Convention" held, taking measures for a separate territorial organization, and asking that the new territory be named Minnesota. October 30, H. H. Sibley elected delegate to Congress.

1849 January 15, H. H. Sibley admitted to a seat. March 3, the bill organizing Minnesota passed. March 19, its territorial officers appointed. June 1, Governor Ramsey declared, by proclamation, the territory organized. September 3, the first territorial Legislature assembled.

1850. Great flood this year; highest water ever known. Minnesota river first navigated by steamboats. Census shows 6,077 inhabitants.

1851. Location of the capitol, university and penitentiary; another flood. July 23, treaty of Traverse des Sioux completed and August 5 the treaty of Mendota, opening the territory west of the Mississippi to settlers.

1852. June 23, the treaties ratified by the United States Senate.

1853 Pierce's administration. W. A. Gorman appointed governor. The capitol building completed.

1854 Celebration of the opening of the Rock Island railroad, the first road to the Mississippi river, by a mammoth excursion, reaching St. Paul, June 8. Large immigration this season and the three succeeding ones, and the real estate mania commences.

1857. Enabling act passes Congress, February 26. Gov. Samuel Medary (appointed by Buchanan), arrives on April 22. Legislature passes a bill to remove the capital to St. Peter, but it fails to accomplish the object. Ink-pa-du-to massacre, April. Land grant passes Congress. April 27, extra session of the Legislature to apportion land grant. July 13, Constitutional Convention assembles. Real estate speculation reaches its height,

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and is checked by the financial panic, August 27. Great revulsions and hard times. Census shows 150,037 population. October 13, Constitution adopted and state officers elected.

1858. State loan of $250,000 negotiated. Five million loan bill passed by the Legislature, March 9; ratified by vote of the people, April 15. Great stringency in money market. State admitted, May 11. State officers sworn in, May 24.

1859. Hard times continue to intensify. "Wright County War." "Glencoe" and "Owatonna" money issued. Work on the land grant road ceases. Collapse of the five million scheme. First export of grain this fall. Hard political struggle; the Republicans triumph.

1860. Another warm political canvass. Federal census, 172,023.

1861. April 15, President proclamation for troops received; the first regiment recruits at once; June 22, it embarks at Ft. Snelling for the seat of war.

1862. Call for 600,000 men. August 17, massacre at Acton; August 18, outbreak at Lower Sioux Agency, eight miles east of Redwood Falls; 19th, New Ulm attacked; 20th, Fort Ridgely attacked; 25th, second attack on New Ulm; 30th, Fort Abercrombie besieged; September 2d, the bloody attack at Birch Coulee. September 19, first railroad in Minnesota in operation, between St. Paul and Minneapolis. September 23, battle of Wood Lake; 26th, captives surrendered at Camp Release; military commission tries 321 Indians for murder, rape, etc.; 303 condemned to die; December 26, 38 hung at Nankato.

1863. General Sibley's expedition to the Missouri river; July 3, Little Crow killed; July 24, battle of Big Mound; July 26, battle of Dead Buffalo Lake; July 28, battle of Stony Lake.

1864. Large levies for troops. Expedition to Missouri river, under Sully. Inflation of money market. Occasional Indian raids.

1865. Peace returns. Minnesota regiments return and are disbanded. In all 22,016 troops furnished by the state. Census shows 250,099 inhabitants.

1866-72 Rapid railroad building everywhere; immigration heavy; "good times" prevail, and the real estate inflated.

1873. January 7, 8 and 9, polar wave sweeps over the state; seventy persons perish. September, the Jay Cook failure creates another panic. Grasshopper raid begins and continues five seasons.

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1876. September 7, attack on bank at Northfield by a gang of armed outlaws from Missouri; three of the latter killed and three captured.

1877. Biennial session amendment adopted.

1878. May 2, three flouring-mills at Minneapolis explode; eighteen lives lost.

1880. November 15, portion of the hospital for the insane at St. Peter destroyed by fire; eighteen inmates burned to death, seven died subsequently of injuries and fright, and six missing; total loss, $150,000.

1881. March 1, the state capitol destroyed by fire.

1884. January 25, state prison partially burned.

1886 April 14, a tornado strikes the cities of St. Cloud and Sauk Rapids, demolishing scores of buildings and killing about seventy people.

1887. Important legislation regarding the liquor traffic, common carriers, and elections.

1889. The Legislature enacts the Australian system of voting in cities of 10,000 and over. The first electric street railway started in the state at Stillwater.

1890. United States census shows a population of 1,301,826. July 13, an excursion steamboat returning from Lake City encampment foundered on Lake Pepin, and 100 people drowned. July 13, tornado swept across Lake Gervias, in Ramsey county, demolishing several buildings and killing six people.

1891 June 15, a series of tornadoes started in Jackson county, near the town of Jackson, traversing Martin, Faribault, Freeborn, Mower and Fillmore counties, on a line nearly parallel with, but from five to fifteen miles north of, the Southern Minnesota division of the Milwaukee & St. Paul railway, doing a large amount of damage to farms and farm buildings, and causing the death to about fifty people along the track of the storm.

1892. June 7, Republican national convention held at Minneapolis. The Australian system of voting used at the November general election.

1893. The Legislature authorizes the appointment of a capitol commission to select a site for a new capitol, and providing a tax of two-tenths of a mill for ten years to pay for the site and the erection of a building. A great financial crisis causes the failure of several banks and many mercantile and manufacturing establishments in the larger cities of the state.

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1894. September 1. forest fires start in the neighborhood of Hinckley, in Pine county, carrying death and destruction over nearly four hundred square miles of territory, destroying the towns of Hinckley and Sandstone, causing the death of 417 people, rendering homeless and destitute 2,200 men, women and children, and entailing a property loss of about $1,000,000.

1895. A census of the state was taken during the month of June, and the total population of the state was found to be 1,574,619.

1896. The Red Lake Indian reservation was diminished to about a quarter part of its former area, and on May 15 a large tract of agricultural and timber lands formerly belonging to that reservation was opened for settlement.

1897. July 2, the monument at Gettysburg to the First Minnesota Regiment was dedicated.

1898. July 27, the corner stone of the new capitol was laid. Minnesota supplied four regiments for service in the Spanish-American War, being the first state, May 7, to respond to the president's call. October 5, the Pillager Indians attacked United States troops near Sugar Point, Leech lake.

1899. Semi-centennial of the territory and state celebrated by the Old Settlers' Association, June 1, and by the Historical Society, November 15.

1900. Population of Minnesota, shown by the national census, 1,751,394. Death of Senator C. K. Davis, November 27.

1901. In the Pan-American Exposition, at Buffalo, New York, the superior exhibits of wheat, flour, and dairy products of Minnesota caused her to be called "the Bread and Butter State."

1902. August 23, the fortieth anniversary of the Sioux War celebrated at New Ulm. Monuments and tablets erected there and at other places in the Minnesota valley.

1903. Tide of immigration into Minnesota, particularly in northern and western sections. April 22, death of Alexander Ramsey, first territorial governor, later governor of the state, United States senator, and secretary of war.

1904. Louisiana Purchase Exposition. Minnesota exhibits win many first prizes for flour, butter, fruits, iron ores, work of pupils in schools, etc.

1905. January 3, Legislature convenes in the new capitol. The population, according to the state census, June 1, was 1,979,912.

1906. September 3, live stock amphitheater on the state fair ground dedicated, with address by James J. Hill. Attendance at the fair on that day, 93,199; during the week, 295,000.

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1907. Folwell Hall, the new main building for the College of Science, Literature and Arts, of the University of Minnesota, completed at cost of $410,000 for the building and its equipment. The total number of students of this University enrolled in all departments for the year was 4,145.

1908. The fiftieth anniversary of the admission of Minnesota to statehood was celebrated in connection with the state fair, its attendance during the week being 326,753.

1909. Death of Gov. John A. Johnson as the result of an operation, at Rochester, Minnesota, September 21, 1909. Lieut.-Gov. Adolph O. Eberhart sworn in as governor by Chief Justice Start, in the Supreme Court retiring room, at 11 o'clock the same day.

1910. Population of Minnesota, shown by the national census, 2,075,708. Death of State Treasurer Clarence C. Dinehart, June 8. E. S. Pettijohn appointed to succeed, June 11. Forest fires in northern Minnesota during the second and third week in October, results in death to about thirty people and the destruction of about $20,000,000 of property. Spooner and Baudette wiped out.

1911. The Legislature ratified the proposed amendment to the United States Constitution for election of United States senators by popular vote. October 18, George E. Vincent was inaugurated president of the University of Minnesota.

1912. The Legislature in special session enacted a new primary election law and "corrupt practices" act. October 19, the statue of Governor Johnson on the capitol ground was unveiled.

1913. June 16-20, the American Medical Association held its sixty-fourth annual session in Minneapolis. United States postal savings bank and parcel post inaugurated in Minnesota. Practical reforms in state road laws enacted. Work begun on the new building of the St. Paul Public Library and Hill Reference Library. New postoffice and new railroad depot building in Minneapolis. November 5, the historic Carver's cave, all trace of which had been lost for forty years or more, was definitely located.

1914. March, Minneapolis made the reserve city in the Northwest for the system of regional national banks. Remarkable impetus to building operations in Minnesota cities. April 4, Frederick Weyerhauser, extensive lumber operator, died in his winter home at Pasadena, California. April 15, plans adopted for St. Paul's new terminals and union depot. May 9, a bronze statue of Gen.

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James Shields, tendered by the Loyal Legion and the Grand Army of the Republic to the state of Minnesota, for a niche in the capitol. Unveiled in November; formally presented to the state by Commander Samuel Appleton, of the Loyal Legion; accepted by Governor A. O. Everhart; eloquent memorial address by Comrade and Companion John Ireland, archbishop. July 4-11, the National Educational Association held its annual convention in St. Paul. November, Winfield Scott Hammond, Democrat, elected governor of Minnesota, defeating William E. Lee, Republican nominee.

1915. January 2, session of the thirty-ninth Legislature opened at the state capitol; Hon. J. A. A. Burnquist, lieutenant-governor, president of the Senate; H. H. Flower, speaker of the House of Representatives. January 3, Winfield Scott Hammond inaugurated governor of Minnesota. February 12, birthday of Abraham Lincoln observed by Minnesota Commandery of the Loyal Legion by a banquet at the West hotel, Minneapolis. Oration by Bishop William A. Quayle, of the Methodist Episcopal church. February 19-20, forty-ninth annual convention of the Minnesota Editorial Association assembled at the St. Paul hotel, St. Paul, President H. C. Hotaling, presiding. December 30, death of Governor Hammond. December 31, Lieutenant-Governor Burnquist assumed the office of governor.

1916. February, discovery of discrepancies in the office of Walter J. Smith treasurer of the state, and his subsequent resignation.

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CHAPTER II.

THE GEOLOGY OF OTTER TAIL COUNTY.

SITUATION AND AREA.

Otter Tail county lies in the central part of western Minnesota. Fergus Falls, its largest town and county seat, is distant in a direct line about one hundred and sixty and one hundred and seventy miles, respectively, to the northwest from Minneapolis and St. Paul. The other most important towns and villages are Perham, Bluffton and New York Mills, on the Northern Pacific railroad; Carlisle, northwest of Fergus Falls on the Great Northern; Elizabeth, Erhard and Pelican Rapids, on the Great Northern; Underwood, Battle Lake, Vining, Henning and Clitherall, on the branch of the Northern Pacific; Vergas, Dent, Richville, Ottertail, Almore and Parkers Prairie, on the Soo line.

The length of Otter Tail county from east to west is nine townships, or fifty-four miles, and its width is seven townships, or forty-two miles. It is a rectangle, excepting a deficiency of one township from its northwest corner, leaving its area sixty-two congressional townships, each six miles square, amounting to 2,240.20 square miles, or 1,433,726.44 acres, of which 162,748.67 acres are covered by water.

SURFACE FEATURES.

Natural Drainage—The greater part of Otter Tail county lies within the basin of the Red river of the North. Only one considerable stream is tributary to the Red river in this county, namely, Toad river, which flows into the north end of Pine lake. Dead river, the outlet of Dead and Star lakes, which flows into the northwest side of Otter Tail lake, and the outlet of Clitherall, East and West Battle lakes and others, flowing into the southeast side of Otter Tail lake at Balmoral, are also large streams.

Pelican river, which joins the Red river of the North three miles west of Fergus Falls, being its only notable tributary above Breckenridge, is forty-five miles long in straight line, having its headwaters in southwestern Becker county. It receives the waters of many lakes, of which the largest are Detroit, Cormorant, Pelican, Lizzie and Lida.

In the east part of Otter Tail county are the sources of the Red Eye, Leaf and Wing rivers, which send their waters eastward to the Crow Wing and the Mississippi. Streams tributary to Long Prairie river, and by that to the Crow Wing, drain the south part of Eastern and Parkers Prairie.

On the south, the farthest source of the Chippewa river is in Effington,

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St. Olaf and Tumuli, while portions of Eagle Lake, Tordenskjold and Dane Prairie are drained by the Pomme de Terre river, both of these streams being branches of the Minnesota river.

Lakes—Otter Tail is the banner county of the state for lakes. The government surveyors report that there are one thousand and six meandered lakes in the county. A glance at the map shows that the lakes occupy the central townships of the county. The eastern and western tiers of townships have none, or a few small lakes. This distribution of lakes corresponds with the position and bearing of the moraines. Entering the county at the north, in the township of Hobart, the general direction of this drift deposit is southwest until, in the vicinity of Fergus Falls, it tends southeast and east, and then swings northeast, where its greatest development is seen in the "Leaf mountains," as they are popularly called. This hilly area is gemmed with lakes. Every depression in the rough and rolling ground holds a mirror to the sky and clouds. They are of all sizes, shapes and depths. Some have outlets, the larger ones especially; others have none, except in very high water; others have no outlet whatever at any time. Of some, the water is whitish or clouded, holding in solution mineral substances derived from the clays and gravels of the shores. Others are apparently perfectly pure, colorless and sparkling.

Of the small lakes, Lake Sewall, in St. Olaf, is as good a representative as any other, and its description will fit in a general way hundreds of the lakes of the county. It is about two miles long and half a mile wide. The shores are not very high and generally slope gently to the water's edge. There is a fringe of trees and shrubs of the common species about the lake, but most of the country is massive rolling prairie, with frequent lakelets and sloughs. The lake is thirty-five to forty feet in depth in the central or deeper parts. As there is no erosion of the banks, the waters are quite pure and free from mineral substances. The bottom or floor of the lake is clay covered by gravel stones, and the beaches are deposits of sand and pebbles.

In all these smaller lakes the same features are repeated over and over. A large number of these lakes have no visible outlet except in very high water. The channel of the outlet is grass-grown and dry, except a few weeks or perhaps a few days in the year.

Lake Clitherall is a beautiful sheet of water, nearly four miles long and one mile wide. It has a deep bay, extending toward the south a distance of two miles. The south shore is densely wooded and presents to the observer on the north side a very picturesque appearance. The shores at various points are bold and high, and there is a fringe of forest trees on the north side, also, where the village of Clitherall stands. There are one or two bars extending nearly across the lake, so that the water does not lie in

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one continuous basin. Soundings give for the east part of the lake a depth varying from fifteen to forty-four feet, and for the west part from ten to thirty-two feet. This lake lies at an elevation of one thousand three hundred and thirty-two feet above the sea. Its outlet is at the northwest side and discharges into West Battle lake.

West Battle lake lies in two basins, the western half being nearly twice as wide as the eastern. The shores are in some places bold and abrupt, rising forty to sixty feet above the lake, while at other points the prairie slopes gently down to the water. There is not much forest. Nearly all the surrounding country, especially at the western extremity, is cultivated prairie. The lake is over six miles long. The western part is about two miles wide; the eastern division, about one mile wide. A high, wooded hill or promontory on the north side marks the line of division. The bottom of the lake is uneven. There are ridges and shallow places out some distance from the shore. The lake has been sounded and in several places there has been found about fifty feet of water. The depths vary rapidly within short distances. The mass of the drift about these lakes is silicious. Some of these bluffs are almost pure sand, crumble under the action of frost and weather, and are distributed over the bottom of the lake by the waves. All the beaches are sand and pebbles. There is very little vegetation in the waters of this lake.

Owing to the purity of its water and the inequalities of depth, this lake presents a most rapid and beautiful play of colors. There is not a more charming or attractive spot in Minnesota than the vicinity of the Battle Lakes. They lie in the midst of the famous Park Region. Groves, lakes, cultivated farms and unoccupied woodland combine to give variety and beauty to the scenery.

West Battle lake has two inlets, one from Lake Clitherall, the other from East Battle lake. Its outlet is on the north side and, after passing through several smaller lakes, discharges into Otter Tail lake at Balmoral Mills.

The country around East Battle lake is very broken and hilly. The Leaf mountains lie a few miles to the south. Several small streams convey the drainage of these hills to the lakes. The basin of this lake is very irregular, the depth varying from twenty to forty feet. There are numerous promontories, points and bays. The hills and shores of the lake are covered with trees and shrubs. The outlet into West Battle lake has evidently run much wider and larger than now. It flows through a low meadow or swamp, and is still a considerable stream, about ten feet wide.

Otter Tail lake is the largest body of water in the county. Indeed, in this whole lake district, which embraces parts of Becker, Otter Tail, Douglas,

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Pope and Kandiyohi counties, there is no lake which can compare with this in size. It is about ten miles long and three miles wide, its longest direction being from northeast to southwest. It has three inlets, one from the south and two from the north. The largest of these is the Red river of the North A large inlet also flows down from Dead lake, on the north. At Balmoral Mills on the south side it receives the surplus waters of the Battle lake chain. For a distance of half a mile or more from the shore the water is quite shallow, being only six to eighteen feet deep. Toward the center of the lake it deepens to forty, fifty and sixty feet, the deeper area being some distance toward the head of the lake.

The lake is without islands or any bold and prominent indentations of the shore. It is, therefore, less picturesque and attractive than some other and smaller sheets of water. The southeastern shores of the lake were once fringed with trees and a few are still left. Farther north, the prairie comes to the water's edge. On the western and northern shores are forests, interspersed with some fertile prairies or openings.

Northwest of Otter Tail are several lakes of irregular shape, surrounded by forests and morainic hills and deposits of clay. Approaching Dead lake from the south, near its outlet, a fine growth of native forest trees is encountered. The sugar maple, basswood, oak, elm, ash and ironwood are especially noticeable. The lake itself is divided by bars and points into several distinct basins and bays. The bottom is as irregular in shape as the shore line; however, the main body of the lake is shallow. There is a good growth of reeds, wild rice and other vegetation in the lake. There are a few small islands. The shores are full of boulders, both granite and limestone rock. It is indeed a lake of the woods, difficult of access, but wild and picturesque, a favorite haunt of water-fowl and other game. The principal tributary is a small stream which connects it with Star lake. The country to the east is rough and hilly. One hill near the outlet rises abruptly ninety-eight feet above the water. On the north side the shore slopes more gently and smoothly to the water.

Farther still to the northwest is a chain of very beautiful lakes, lying on the west side of the great moraine and tributary to Pelican river. These are Lakes Lida and Lizzie and Pelican. Between these lakes, and on the east side, there is a fine forest of hardwood trees of the species already mentioned. On the west side the prairie stretches away toward the Red river. All the surrounding country is rolling and uneven. The largest of the three lakes is Lake Lida, which is about seven miles long and two miles wide. A narrower arm, about one mile wide, extends south from the main body of the lake for two miles. The eastern shore is wooded and hilly,

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while the western shore is more level and the forest soon gives place to the prairie.

Between Lakes Lida and Lizzie, which formerly constituted one lake, there are several old beaches, now covered with forest trees, indicating that the former level of the lake was from seven to ten feet higher than it is at present.

The outlet of Lake Lida is at the north end. It is a strong current of water, three feet deep and fourteen feet wide. The lake varies in depth from ten to forty feet, being shallow about the shores. The water is very pure and clear and there are several fine springs about the shores. There are, in the vicinity of these lakes, a number of cranberry marshes from which, without any effort at cultivation, a good many bushels of cranberries were formerly gathered every year.

The southern part of Lake Lizzie is quite shallow and narrow and filled with reeds and rushes for some distance out from the shore. The northern part is broader and deeper. The eastern shore is covered by forest, while on the western side the prairie, in some places, comes nearly to the lake. The country is massively rolling, and as a general rule sandy, but there are also large deposits of clay. One well, on the west side of this lake, was dug seventy-eight feet deep, through sand and gravel, and another, a quarter of a mile away, sixty feet, through clay. The outlet of Lake Lizzie is the Pelican river, at this point forty feet wide and three to four feet deep. About a mile west of the outlet the river spreads out into Prairie lake, which has an area of about two square miles. The quality and temperature of the water does not differ materially from that of Lake Lida. There are two small islands of about two acres each in this lake.

Pelican lake is very picturesque and beautiful, with bold, high shores, wooded on the east and with prairie at the western end. The water is pure and sparkling. The depth varies from eight to forty feet. On the south side are some excellent springs. The exposures of soil on the lake shores are sandy, no clay being seen. The bottom is very uneven, especially in the south arm, which is sometimes called Fish lake. From this arm the outlet discharges its waters into Lake Lizzie.

These three lakes, with seven or eight others in Becker county, which lie above them, constitute the Pelican chain and are a grand reservoir of water, feeding that river with perpetually fresh supplies.

The course of the Red river in this county is southeast as far as Pine lake, and thence south to Otter Tail lake. The elevation of the river-bed above the sea near Perham is one thousand three hundred and twenty-four feet. The elevation of Otter Tail lake is about one thousand three hundred and fifteen feet. Thus far the river has no clearly marked valley.

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It flows in a channel eroded by its own agency in the drift. The banks vary from six to twenty feet high. Sometimes there are swamp-like expansions at one side or other of the stream. At other points the banks are perpendicular or abrupt and the river has eroded the side of a bluff. But in general, the characteristics of the river are those simply of a drainage channel, carrying off the surplus waters of the region. Below Otter Tail lake the Red river assumes a somewhat different character. Having received in the lake itself two important affluents, it flows out at the western extremity a swift, strong current, between moderately high bluffs.

The country through which the river winds is exceedingly hilly and rough. The morainic deposits are composed of clay, sand and gravel, and the river, eroding the sides of these hills and bluffs, becomes colored by the earthy matter held in suspension, so that it is milky or whitish-yellow in appearance. It passes through three or four lakes, which are little more than expansions of the river where the conformation of the surface favored the spreading out of the water. Owen, a geologist, who reported on this region several years ago, found ten of these lakes, but some of them must have disappeared, for at present there are only three or four places that can claim that distinction. The descent is quite appreciable and the current generally rapid. In fairly high water the river rushes along with great force, and a ride in a batteau is an exhilarating pleasure. The fall from Otter Tail lake to Fergus Falls is about one hundred and forty-two feet, the elevation at Fergus Falls being one thousand one hundred and seventy-three feet above the sea. The general course of the river is southwest, though the windings of the channel direct its current toward nearly every point of the compass. Its flood-plain is, as a rule, co-extensive with its valley, which has been entirely eroded, apparently by the present river.

Topography—Besides the foregoing reference to the contour of the county, the reader will find in a later portion of this chapter details of its belts of morainic hills, including the Leaf hills, which are the most prominent accumulations of morainic drift in Minnesota, having a height of one hundred to three hundred and fifty feet above the adjoining country.

ALTITUDES.

Northern Pacific Railroad—Main Line.

	Feet Above Sea.
Wadena Junction, two miles west of Wadena	1,352
Oak Ridge creek, bed, 1,310; grade	1,326
Leaf river, bed, 1,303; grade	1,315
Bluffton	1,323
Bluff creek, bed, 1,308; grade	1,329

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	Feet Above Sea.
Little run, bed, 1328; grade	1,341
New York Mills	1,410
Summit, 200 to 400 feet farther west	1,411
Summit, natural ground, highest on this railroad in Minnesota	1,433
Richland	1,396
Otter Tail river, bed, 1324; grade	1,343
Perham	1,370
Summit, natural surface	1,383
Otter Tail river, bed, 1,340; grade	1,361
At Thompson's lake, grade	1,372
Hobart	1,386
Summit, natural ground	1,404

Wadena—Breckenridge Division.

Wadena Junction	1,352
Oak Ridge creek, bed, 1,334; grade	1,347
South Bluff creek, bed, 1,323; grade	1,353
Deer creek, bed, 1,378; grade	1,389
Deer Creek station	1,394
Summit, cutting, 5 feet; grade	1,419
Rock creek, bed, 1,393; grade	1,409
Summit, grade	1,424
Willow creek, bed, 1,406; grade	1,420
Henning	1,437
Pease prairie, general surface	1,450
East Battle creek, bed, 1,369; grade	1,380
Clitherall	1,346
Summit, grade	1,368
Outlet of Lake Clitherall, bed, 1,331; grade	1,340
Lake Clitherall	1,332
Battle Lake station	1,354
Outlet of Turtle lake, bed, 1,327; grade	1,339
Turtle lake	1,323-1,328
Maplewood	1,360
Outlet of Bass lake, bed, 1,327; grade	1,335
Bass lake	1,325-1,328
Red river, bed, 1,228; grade	1,246
Red river, bed, 1,191; grade	1,204
Pelican Junction	1,187
Crossing St. P., M. & M. railway	1,192

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	Feet Above Sea.
Fergus Falls	1,182
Red river, bed, 1,145; water, 1,151; grade	1,175
Pelican river, bed, 1,120; water, 1,124; grade	1,132
Summit, grade	1,175
Upper or Herman beach of lake Agassiz, forty rods wide, crest, 1,080, ten feet above the depressions both east and west; grade	1,075
Ames	1,063

Great Northern Railroad—Fergus Falls Line.

Pelican creek, near the south line of Otter Tail county, water, 1,236; grade	1,249
Dalton (a summit)	1,357
Pomme de Terre river, water, 1,224; grade	1,259
Parkdale	1,274
Sand lake, water, 1,185; grade	1,186
Crossing Northern Pacific railroad, Wadena division	1,192
Fergus Falls, freight depot	1,187
Red river, water, 1,178; grade	1,188
Fergus Falls, passenger depot	1,208
Pelican river, water, 1,149; grade	1,171
Carlisle	1,224
Junction of branch to Pelican Rapids	1,216
Lake, water, 1,218; grade	1,223
Rothsay	1,188

Most of the following elevations of rivers and lakes are determined by exact surveys; others are estimated very approximately.

Otter Tail River and Lakes.

On the line between Becker and Otter Tail counties	1,360
On the line between Hobart and Gorman	1,342
Pine lakes	1,330
Two miles southeast from Perham	1,326
Rush and Otter Tail lakes, estimated	1,315
Leaf lakes, at the head of Leaf river, estimated	1,340
East and West Battle lakes, about	1,328
Blanche lake, one mile south of Balmoral, about	1,325

Red River of the North.

Mouth of Otter Tail lake, about	1,315
At the railroad bridge in section 33, Aurdal	1,232
At the railroad bridge near the east line of the corporation of Fergus Falls	1,195

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Virginia and White-tailed Deer.

American Bison (Buffalo).

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	Feet Above Sea.
In Fergus Falls, at the bridge of the Great Northern railway	1,178
In Fergus Falls, at the bridge of the Wadena division, Northern Pacific railroad	1,151
Mouth of Pelican river, about	1,120
At Dayton bridge, in the southwest quarter of section 20, Buse	1,064
On the west line of section 30, Buse	1,041
Near the northeast corner of section 33, township 132, range 44	1,014
On the line between Otter Tail and Wilkin counties	1,000
Pelican River and Lakes.	
One mile east of Detroit, in Becker county, mill-pond	1,345
Detroit lake	1,335
Lake Melissa, in Lake View, Becker county, about	1,330
Pelican lake, about	1,320
Lakes Lizzie and Lida, about	1,315
Top of dam at Pelican Rapids. (The fall here is twelve feet)	1,301
At the railroad bridge near the south line of Pelican	1,280
At the railroad bridge, two and one-half miles farther south, in Erhards Grove	1,268
One and one-half miles north of Elizabeth, near the north line of section 29	1,230
On the line between Elizabeth and Fergus Falls, estimated	1,200
At the bridge of the Great Northern railway, in the east edge of section 13, Carlisle	1,149
Junction with the Red river, about	1,120

The extremes of elevation in Otter Tail county are as follow: The highest point is in the Leaf hills, in or near section 32, Folden township, about one thousand seven hundred and fifty feet above the sea; the lowest point is where the Red river crosses the west line of the county, one thousand feet above the sea. Estimates of the average heights of the townships are as follow: Paddock, 1,400 feet; Blowers, 1,410; Bluffton, 1,375; Compton, 1,360; Oak Valley, 1,400; Woodside, 1,390; Eastern, 1,400; Butler, 1,425; Homestead, 1,425; Newton, 1,390; Deer Creek, 1,400; Inman, 1,440; Elmo, 1,420; Parkers Prairie, 1,440; township 137, range 38, 1,390; Pine Lake, 1,390; Otto, 1,390; Leaf Lake, 1,380; East Battle Lake, 1,440; Folden, 1,500; Effington, 1,500; Gorman, 1,380; Perham, 1,380; Rush Lake, 1,375; Ottertail, 1,340; Girard, 1,365; Nidaros, 1,430; Leaf Mountain, 1,500; Hobart, 1,390; Edna, 1,400; township 135, range 40, 1,375; Amor, 1,360; Everts, 1,360; Clitherall, 1,390; Eagle Lake, 1,440; Candor, 1,390; Dora,

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1,390; Star Lake, 1,375; Maine, 1,360; Swerdrup, 1,340; Tordenskjold, 1,350; Saint Olaf, 1,340; Dunn, 1,350; Lida, 1,340; Maplewood, 1,380; Friberg, 1,350; Aurdal, 1,320; Dane Prairie, 1,300; Tumuli, 1,280; Scambler, 1,350; Pelican, 1,340; Erhards Grove, 1,340; Elizabeth, 1,325; Fergus Falls, 1,250; Buse, 1,200; Aastad, 1,190; Norwegian Grove, 1,260; Trondhjem, 1,250; Oscar, 1,225; Carlisle, 1,175; township 132, range 44, 1,100; and Western, 1,090.

According to these figures, the mean elevation of the eastern third of Otter Tail county is approximately 1,415 feet; of the central third, 1,380 feet; and of the western third, 1,270 feet above the sea; giving 1,355 feet, approximately, as the mean elevation of the whole county.

SOIL AND TIMBER.

The soil of the greater part of this county is the unmodified glacial drift, called till or boulder-clay. This forms the surface of most of the smoothly undulating and moderately rolling areas and of the more rolling, knolly and hilly morainic belts. Next to the surface it has become blackened by the decay of vegetation to a depth of one or two feet, which constitutes the soil proper. Below this it has a yellowish color to a depth varying from five to twenty-five or sometimes fifty feet, due to the exposure to air and percolating water, which have changed the iron contained in this deposit from protoxide combinations to the hydrous sesqui-oxide or limonite. At greater depths the glacial drift has a much darker and bluish color. This formation is made up from the eroded rock-materials of large areas on the north, and shows intermingled boulders and fine detritus from Archaean granites, syenites and crystalline schists, the magnesian limestone of the Winnipeg region and the Cretaceous shales of Dakota. Its variety of ingredients, and notably its large proportion of limestone, not only as boulders and pebbles, but in a finely pulverized condition, gives a very high degree of fertility. This is developed by the ample rainfall, which is distributed somewhat equally throughout the year, seldom to excess, and still more rarely so deficiently as to allow crops to be damaged by drought. Wheat, oats, and other cereals, potatoes, sorghum, garden vegetables and small fruits, live stock and butter, are the agricultural exports.

Considerable tracts of stratified gravel and sand, belonging to the modified drift, having a flat surface or, more often, moderately undulating or rolling, occur on the west side of the Pelican river in Dunn, Scambler and Pelican; in Hobart, Gorman and Perham, and in the east edge of Rush Lake; about Otter Tail lake, in the townships of Maine, Amor, Otter Tail, Leaf Lake, Everts and Girard; in the western two-thirds of Nidaros and the north edge of Leaf Mountain; in the northeastern townships; south of the Leaf river in Deer Creek and Compton, and in Elmo, Woodside and

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Parkers Prairie. The gravel and sand of these tracts consists largely of limestone, varying from one-fourth to two-thirds, and for the most part their productiveness is scarcely inferior to that of the areas of till.

Timber formerly covered fully two-thirds of the county, but with increasing population it is rapidly disappearing. From the west, the prairie region extends in general to the Pelican river, to Fergus Falls, and to Swan and Ten-Mile lakes; but a considerable body of timber was originally found in the northeast part of Norwegian Grove, and an extensive belt of woodland and oak openings reaches on the west side of the Pelican river from Erhards Grove to Carlisle. Within the area that is mainly timbered, a belt of prairies extends quite across the center of the county from north to south, including the plains and undulating tracts of modified drift in Gorman, Perham, Rush Lake, Otter Tail and Leaf Lake, and portions of Amor, Everts, Girard and Nidaros, and tracts of till in Clitherall, Eagle Lake and Saint Olaf, partly undulating in low swells, and partly forming the western third of the Leaf hills. Still farther east, patches of prairie several miles in extent are found in Deer Creek, Compton, Elmo and Parkers Prairie.

The southwestern limit of the pines, spruce and balsam fir is in the vicinity of the Pine lakes, New York Mills and Wadena. Farther southwest, the principal forest trees are oak, elm, ash, basswood, maple, box-elder, ironwood and poplar, with tamarack in the swamps; and these also occur, interspersed with groves of pines, spruce and fir, in the northeast part of the county.

GEOLOGICAL STRUCTURE.

No outcrop of the rocks underlying the drift is found in this county. The mass of limestone seen by Owen in his boat journey down the Red river, occurring in the river bank at a point a little above Fergus Falls, was only a large slab, embedded in nearly horizontal position in the bank, instead of being in place as a solid bed. Yet the great abundance of large magnesian limestone boulders found at many places in the west half of Becker and Otter Tail counties, the section through nearly three hundred feet of magnesian limestone, probably the equivalent of the lower magnesian limestone of the Mississippi valley, suggests the probability that the first ascent of high land east of the Red River valley is due, through Otter Tail, Becker, Clay, Norman and Polk counties, to a prominent escarpment of this Cambrain limestone, with its associated strata of sandstone, now deeply covered and concealed by the drift. In the eastern part of the county, however, it seems most probable that the rocks immediately underlying the drift are Archaean granite, syenite and schists. Above these, patches of cretaceous beds doubtless exist in this region; but definite knowledge of these matters can only be gained by deep wells, none of which have yet reached the bottom

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of the drift in this county. The depth of the drift probably varies from one hundred to two hundred or two hundred and fifty feet, excepting the Leaf hills, which add an equal amount, making its total thickness there two hundred to four hundred or perhaps five hundred feet.

The greater part of the drift is till, both in its moderately undulating or rolling and its hilly or morainic areas. The latter have a much larger proportion of boulders than the former. Deposits of modified drift, however, cover probably a fourth part of the county, in flat or moderately undulating or rolling areas, which have been already enumerated in the remarks concerning the soil. Such stratified gravel and sand also form thin beds enclosed in the till, from which wells commonly obtain their supply of water, often under hydrostratic pressure, so that it rises considerably above the water-bearing stratum. Lenticular beds and kame-like knolls and hills of gravel and sand are also associated with the till in the morainic hills.

Terminal Moraines.—A rather inconspicuous belt of morainic drift extends from the northwest corner of Hobart, on the north line of this county, south-southwest to Spirit lake and Lake Lida, twelve miles. It here varies from one to three miles in width. Its knolls along most of this distance rise only twenty-five to fifty feet, but they are much more abundant and have steeper and more broken slopes than upon adjoining areas to the east and west. At the southeast side of Lake Lida it forms a range of hills one hundred feet or more above the lake. These are conspicuously seen from the township of Maine, ten miles southeast. From Lake Lida, this moraine widens and covers the first six or seven miles east from the Pelican river, above which it rises one hundred to one hundred and fifty feet or more; being well exhibited for eighteen miles in the east portions of Erhards Grove, Elizabeth and Fergus Falls. On the road from Maine to Elizabeth its hills are very numerous and irregular in outlines, short, trending from north to south more frequently than in other directions, and separated by hollows twenty-five to fifty feet deep. Here and for six miles southward the contour along the Red river and about Wall lake, though within this morainic belt, is smoother than its other portions. At Lake Lida these hills have their tops about one thousand four hundred and twenty-five feet above the sea; thence to the vicinity of Fergus Falls this altitude gradually diminishes to one thousand three hundred, not because the hills are smaller, but because the land on which they lie slopes in this direction.

The portion of the county west of this moraine, excepting the tract on the southwest included in the basin of Lake Agassiz, is mainly hilly, with the highest elevations fifty to one hundred feet above the hollows, the contour being in massive and broadly rounded swells, with long, gently-curving slopes. In part of Dunn, Scambler and Pelican, this area is stratified gravel

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and sand on the surface and as deep as wells reach, while for ten or twelve miles southwestward from this tract large deposits of modified drift, consisting of similar gravel and sand, are frequently found under a comparatively thin surface of till, as shown by records of wells in Trondhjem and Oscar. Probably the remarkable sloughs along the border of Lake Agassiz in Tanberg and Akron, in Wilkin county, are caused by springs issuing from the low western edge of this modified drift. These beds of gravel and sand, underlying till, and others farther south and north in the west portions of this county and Becker county, and also beds of stratified clay found in like situation in Aurdal and Tumuli, are perhaps subglacial deposits, formed during the time of the glacial recession from the Dovre moraine to the Fergus Falls moraine. The rolling and even hilly modified drift in Scambler and Pelican seems referable to nearly the same time, being deposited slightly later than the beds covered by till, after the melting of the ice-sheet had progressed so far that the rivers, which had become subglacial along the last part of their course, were there uncovered, causing them to descend from the melting ice-fields, directly upon the open land. Indian hill, in section 9, of Oscar township, affords a fine view of part of this area and of the moraine seven miles eastward, while at the west it overlooks the plain of Wilkin county, which stretches with slight descent twenty miles to the Red river. On the east side of this moraine the only prominent outlying hills are at the southeast corner of Hobart, where a gravelly ridge of irregular contour reaches two or three miles from north to south, its highest portion being about one hundred and fifty feet above the surrounding country. These are the hills which one sees from Perham, looking northwest.

The greatest development of the terminal moraines within the limits of Minnesota is in southern Otter Tail county, where these drift-hills sweep in a semicircle from Fergus Falls southeast to the south line of the county and thence east and northeast to East Leaf lake, a distance of fifty miles. In the first twenty miles, or from Fergus Falls to the north side of Lake Christina, at the northwest corner of Douglas county, the moraines are divided into two or three belts or roughly hilly land, with intervening areas of smoother contour. One to two miles east of Fergus Falls is a narrow belt of irregular hills and hollows, with the crests about one hundred feet above the river. This series continues, one to three miles wide, for fifteen miles south-southeast, through Dane Prairie and Tumuli, into the northeast corner of Pomme de Terre township, in Grant county. There it partly bends east to the high hills north of Pelican lake and Lake Christina, and is partly represented by the less irregular, but yet prominently hilly land which lies between Pelican and Pomme de Terre lakes and continues thence a few

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miles farther south. In Dane Prairie and Tumuli this moraine lies at the east side of a series of lakes, of which Swan and Ten-Mile lakes are the largest. Beside the latter, in sections 27 and 34, Tumuli, the contour for a width of one-eighth to one-fourth of a mile is in very irregular short hills, twenty-five to forty feet above the lake, whose trend, northwest to southeast, is parallel with the lake and with the course of the moraine. These small hills are exceedingly rocky, with granitic and gneissic boulders of all sizes, up to five or six feet in diameter, which frequently cover half of the ground for several rods distance. Northeast from this typically morainic line the land for a few miles is in massive hills and swells, which rise fifty to seventy-five feet above intervening hollows and lakes. Its least hilly portion is St. Olaf township, which has mostly a rolling surface, in extensive swells thirty to fifty feet high. The east part of Tordenskjold is occupied by a second belt of very irregular hills, which is connected through sections 19 and 20 and the north part of sections 7 and 8 with the series that lies at the east side of Wall lake and the Red river, reaching northwest to the broad area of this moraine in Friberg and Elizabeth. The Tordenskjold hills are also joined from the north by another line of drift deposits, having a very rough contour in knolls, ridges and hillocks, twenty-five to seventy-five feet high, which extends ten miles, with an average width of one mile, from section 15, Maine, south-southeast by the east side of Turtle lake, in Everts township. The wide moraine resulting from the union of these subordinate series continues southeast to Lake Christina, in Douglas county. Where it is crossed by the road from Clitherall to St. Olaf, its first and highest hill is called "Dutch bluff." At the south side of this, about one hundred and twenty-five feet lower, is a pretty lake, half a mile long, bordered all around by morainic hills. This belt of short ridges, knolls and hollows has a width of three miles thence to the southwest.

The Leaf Hills.—In Eagle Lake township, at the north side of Lake Christina, the last described series and that which comes from the southwest by the north side of Pelican lake, are united; and thence for the next twenty miles to the east and northeast the moraine forms a range five to three miles wide, composed of very irregular, roughly outlined hills, one hundred to three hundred feet high. This portion of the moraine is widely known by the name of Leaf mountains. Occasionally this name is applied to its similar but less prominent portions in the west part of this county and these hills in Becker county are sometimes called a branch of the Leaf mountains. Northeast of East Leaf lake, where the moraine is crossed by the road from Wadena to Otter Tail lake, its elevations rise only about one hundred feet and are named Leaf hills, which seems a very appropriate

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title. The common name has currency because they are the only hills in this part of Minnesota which are conspicuously seen at any great distance.

Approximate heights of the Leaf hills are as follow: Dutch bluff, about one thousand four hundred and fifty feet above the sea; Leaf hills, in Eagle Lake township, one thousand four hundred to one thousand five hundred; in the northeast corner of Lund township and the northwest edge of Millerville township, Douglas county, one thousand five hundred to one thousand six hundred; in Leaf Mountain township, one thousand five hundred and fifty to one thousand six hundred and fifty; in the northwest part of Effington, one thousand six hundred to one thousand seven hundred; highest summit of the Leaf hills, thought to be in section 32, Folden, about one thousand seven hundred and fifty, being three hundred and fifty feet above the average elevation of the surrounding country; thence for seven miles northeastward, one thousand six hundred and fifty to one thousand six hundred; depression where the range is crossed by Willow creek, the head-stream of Leaf river, about one thousand four hundred and twenty-five; hills in the next six miles north, to where the series is crossed by the Leaf river below East Leaf lake, one thousand six hundred and forty to one thousand four hundred and fifty.

The Leaf hills are the most massive morainic accumulations in Minnesota. In their highest portions they rise two hundred to three hundred and fifty feet above the adjoining country, which is itself covered deeply with drift. The top of the bed-rock beneath the Leaf hills is probably not higher than the bottom of Lake Clitherall, a few miles distant to the north, which is one thousand two hundred and eighty-eight to one thousand three hundred feet above the sea. Fifteen miles south from the highest part of the Leaf hills, the bottom of Lake Carlos is about one thousand one hundred and eighty feet above sea-level. A gradient connecting these lake-beds would pass beneath the Leaf hills at an elevation of one thousand two hundred and fifty feet, or five hundred feet lower than the highest points of this moraine; and this thickness is very likely all drift, the top of the bed-rock being estimated to coincide approximately with gradient mentioned. The general elevation of this entire region is thus doubtless due to prominence of the bed-rock above its height in the valleys of the Red and Mississippi rivers on the west and east, in the same way that the preglacial contour remains to determine all the great river-basins and large areas of highland in the state; but the contour of the Leaf hills, rising in steep slopes to summits one hundred to two hundred and three hundred and fifty feet above their bases and the intervening hollows, a quarter or a half of a mile or one mile distant, with no exposures of bed-rocks in them or in their vicinity,

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shows that these hills are wholly drift deposits, the underlying rock most probably not rising higher there than in other parts of this region.

The road from Alexandria to Clitherall crosses this range in the township of Leaf Mountain. The summit of the road is near the south line of this township, about one thousand five hundred and twenty-five feet above the sea. The top of a hill a quarter of a mile east of this and about one hundred and twenty-five feet higher, affords a fine view of these "mountains," which westward and northeastward rise in most tumultous confusion one hundred and fifty to two hundred and fifty feet or more above the intervening depressions. They are massive, though very irregular in contour, with steep slopes. No prevailing trend is noticeable. Between them are enclosed frequent lakes, which vary from a few rods to a mile in length, and one of the largest lies at the northeast foot of this hill. The material is unmodified drift, nearly like that which forms very extensive gently undulating tracts elsewhere. The principal difference is that rock-fragments, large and small, are generally more numerous upon these hills, and occasionally they occur in great abundance.

In going from Otter Tail lake to Wadena, this range is encountered one or two miles northeast from East Leaf lake. Here its hillocks are only forty to sixty feet above the hollows, and one hundred to one hundred and twenty-five feet above the lake. Their material is gravel and sand, with enclosed boulders, unlike the stony and gravelly clay which makes up most of these morainic accumulations. This belt of irregular hillocks and hollows, occupying a width of about two miles, next extends in a course a little west of north twelve miles, running midway between New York Mills and Rush lake. Its most northern portion traced and mapped consists of hills which rise one hundred feet above the general level at the south side of Pine lake.

Outlying hills west of this series occur along the south side of the Leaf lakes, where they are fifty to seventy-five feet high, and for two miles south from East Battle lake, above which they rise about one hundred and fifty feet. On the east side of this moraine two lines of hilly and irregular contour branch off from it. The most northern starts four miles south from the east end of East Leaf lake, and extends nearly due east through Inman and Oak Valley into the northwest township of Todd county. On the road from Wadena to Parkers Prairie this line is represented by a nearly level tract of unmodified boulder-clay, in contrast with all the rest of this road, which has only stratified gravel and sand. Two miles farther east, in northwestern Todd county, it rises in conspicuous hills fully one hundred feet above the general level. The other series starts from the highest part of the Leaf hills, fifteen miles south of the Leaf lakes, and passes southeast into Douglas county. In its first few miles, through Effington and Parkers

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Prairie, this morainic range decreases in height from two hundred to seventy-five feet.

Fergus Falls Moraine.—When the Minnesota lobe of the ice-sheet receded from its seventh or Dovre moraine, its next pause or readvance sufficient for the accumulation of a well-marked line of marginal drift deposits seems to have been along the course of the morainic series traced from Hobart southward by Lake Lida to Fergus Falls, and by Swan and Ten-Mile lakes to the north side of Pelican lake and Lake Christina, this eighth or Fergus Falls moraine having been formed on the west border of the ice which still covered northern Minnesota. The southern border of the ice at this time apparently extended from Lake Christina along the course of the Leaf hills to their highest point, and thence southeastward through Spruce Hills, in Douglas county, and through southern and eastern Todd county.

Leaf Hills Moraine.—Later recession of the west margin of the ice and of its portion in southeastern Otter Tail county and in Todd county, is indicated by the morainic belt that reaches from Maine township south by Turtle lake and through Tordenskjold to the Leaf hills, and farther east by the morainic hills in northern Todd county; but when these were accumulated the ice-front probably still remained with no considerable or permanent recession along the line of the Leaf hills in Eagle Lake, Leaf Mountain, Effington and the south part of Folden. The portion of the Leaf hills farther north to East Leaf lake appears to have been formed along the east border of an ice-lobe whose west side was at Turtle lake, these morainic series on the east and west being accumulated where the ice had withdrawn considerably from its eighth or Fergus Falls moraine.

The latter or ninth morainic series may, therefore, be well designated as the Leaf Hills moraine, this and the preceding being merged together along the highest part of the Leaf hills. The moraine continuing north from East Leaf lake to Pine lake was probably formed on the west side of the ice during a halt in its subsequent retreat, being thus the latest marginal deposits of drift in this county. Between the times of the Fergus Falls and Leaf Hills moraines, the west boundary of the ice in Becker and Otter Tail counties seems to have receded ten to fifteen miles, and in Todd county the glacial recession was from the most southern to the most northern tier of townships, some thirty-five miles.

Modified Drift.—By the next and much greater glacial retreat, to the tenth or Itasca moraine, Otter Tail, Becker and Wadena counties were uncovered from the ice, and very extensive deposits of modified drift, gathered from the ice-sheet by the floods produced in its melting, were spread upon these counties. Excepting the modified drift west of the Pelican river, and in Parkers Prairie, Elmo and Woodside, in the southeast corner of

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Otter Tail county, all the large areas of gravel and sand in this county were formed during this glacial melting and recession from the Leaf hills to the Itasca moraine. The most remarkable of these deposits is the plain of Nidaros, about six miles long from south to north and three to four miles wide, elevated one hundred to one hundred and twenty-five feet above Clitherall lake, which bounds this plain on its northwest side. The south part of this tract, extending into Leaf Mountain township, is in broad undulations, ten to thirty feet high, having a prevailing trend from northeast to southwest. Some portions of the modified drift in Scambler and Pelican have a hilly contour, rising in smooth, gracefully curved slopes, forty to sixty or seventy-five feet above the depressions and lakes. Undulations in long slopes, with elevations fifteen to twenty-five or thirty-five feet above the enclosed hollows and lakes, are common upon most of the areas of modified drift in this county. Its most flat tracts are in Perham, Rush Lake, Otter Tail, Nidaros, Woodside, Elmo and Parkers Prairie.

Osars.—Wall lake, five miles east of Fergus Falls, receives its name from an osar of coarse gravel on its west side, through which the lake has cut its outlet. This osar is a ridge of a third of a mile long, thirty to thirty-five feet high in its northern half and fifteen to twenty feet high in its southern half. At its south end, where it abuts on the higher area of rolling till, the gravel contains boulders up to two and even three or four feet in diameter, but they are absent or very rare in its other portions. The sides of this gravel deposit have the very steep slopes characteristic of osars, but it has for the most part a level, plateau-like top, several rods wide, unlike typical osars. There is a very interesting osar twenty to one hundred feet high, steep-sided and narrow-topped, extending some five miles east-northeasterly from section 12, Pine Lake, through the northwest part of Homestead and into the south edge of Butler, to the head of Bluff creek. It is composed of sand and coarse gravel, constituting a single, definite ridge, with no others noticeably parallel with it or branching from it. On each side along most of its course are swamps, and in a few places the ridge sinks below the swamp-level.

Kames.—The Leaf Hills moraine, in the vicinity of East Leaf lake, consists of kame-like deposits of gravel and sand, with enclosed boulders, as before stated, its elevations being forty to sixty feet above the intervening hollows and about one hundred feet above the lake. The hills five miles northwest from Perham appear to be of the same kind. They are probably in the line of continuation of the Leaf Hills moraine from Turtle lake northward. In section 22, Maine, this moraine has a width of one mile and is composed almost wholly of kame-like hillocks and short ridges of gravel and sand, ten to forty feet high, with no boulders, the largest rock-fragments

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seen being one and a half feet in diameter. Frequent hillocks of kame-like gravel and sand occur in the township of Norwegian Grove, interspersed with swells and hills of till.

A boulder worthy of mention lies about forty rods east-northeast from the top of Indian hill, in Oscar township, on land some twenty-five feet below that point. It is an angular block ten feet long, as exposed, a part being under-ground. Most of this rock is light gray granite, in which are enclosed many angular fragments of black hornblende schist (hornblende and black mica) of all sizes up to one and a half feet long and one piece even three and a half feet long, making probably a fourth part of the whole mass. No other boulders of this kind have been found in this region, but a similar one has been observed near Correll in Big Stone county.

Ice-formed Ridges.—Low ridges a few feet in height and three to six rods wide, composed of gravel and sand and frequently containing boulders, accumulated by ordinary ice during the recent epoch, have been seen in the following localities: A short distance south of Parkers Prairie, dividing a lakelet from the northeast end of lake Adley and used as a road-way; along a fourth of a mile on the east end of Lake Marian, separating the lake from a swamp, likewise occupied by a road; on the northwest shore of Clitherall lake; along an eighth of a mile between Lakes Lida and Lizzie; for nearly the same distance between the southeast and northwest parts of Spirit lake in Dora township; and in section 35, Candor, extending forty or fifty rods, connecting two islands of Loon lake with the west shore.

ABORIGINAL EARTHWORKS.

The largest group of artificial mounds observed in Otter Tail county is on the south side of the Red river about fifty rods west from the mouth of Otter Tail lake. Here sixteen mounds, all having the usual dome-like form, were counted on a space extending some forty rods from north to south and about a dozen rods in width elevated about thirty-five feet above the lake. One of these is ten feet high, but the others are small, varying from one to four feet in height. The ten-foot mound and another close southeast from it, three feet high, have been partly excavated and were found to contain human bones, being burial mounds. A ravine east of these divides them from a nearly level tract some twenty feet above the lake, on which a third of a mile farther east are four mounds, each three feet high excepting the most northern one, which has only half this size.

At the east end of Otter Tail lake, a sixth of a mile south from the former site of Otter Tail City, three mounds are situated a few rods east of the road, lying in a nearly north and south line, the middle one being eight feet high and the others about two feet high. A half mile north from the site of Otter Tail City two mounds, each two or three feet high, were

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formerly seen fifteen or twenty rods west from the road. In the northeast part of Rush Lake township, in or near the south half of section 1, four mounds, two to five feet in height, were plainly seen beside the road several years ago, three being on its west side and one on the east, between the road and Otter Tail river.

In the northwest one-fourth of section 36, Perham township, four mounds from two to three feet high were noted by early settlers. The length of the series was some twenty rods. About a mile north from the last, a mound seven or eight feet high was formerly plainly visible. Several mounds, originally about five feet high, lie on the east side of Prairie lake in Pelican township. On the top of Indian hill in Oscar township is an artificial mound, forty feet long from north to south and twenty-five feet wide. Its height was probably once three feet, but it is now barely discernible. Two skeletons were disclosed several years ago by a small excavation in this mound.

In the north part of Carlisle township two hills that overlook Fish lake, above which they rise forty to fifty feet, have each an artificial mound which were probably three feet high. One of these is in the northwest quarter of the southwest quarter of section 3, and the other in the northwest quarter of the northeast quarter of section 5, Carlisle. On the upper or Herman beach of Lake Agassiz, about a half mile south of the Red river and near the center of section 33, township 132, range 14 (Carlisle township), is a mound six feet high; and within forty rods farther south are several others which were once probably one to three feet high.

Several years ago J. A. Colehour and Rev. Myron Cooley, of Battle Lake, made a study of the mounds of the county in order to ascertain their distribution and nature, and the following condensed statement of their investigations follows:

COLEHOUR-COOLEY REPORT ON MOUNDS.

This county is rich in mounds and relics of that pre-historic people known as Mound-builders. In the townships of Everts, Girard, Amor, Perham and Star Lake, numberless mounds are found of every shape and size, together with many sites of prehistoric villages. In the woods on the north shore of East Battle lake there is a group of mounds, which have never been examined and are covered with a heavy growth of timber. A few pieces of pottery have been picked up occasionally in the vicinity. At the east end of Battle lake there are scores of mounds scattered around on the bluffs south of where the outlet from East Battle lake entered Battle lake. The general plan seems to have been a great semi-circle, terminating in two large mounds about eighty rods apart, facing the lake. One of these large mounds has been opened and parts of several skeletons taken out, also a

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curious bone chisel, eight inches long, and an agate knife blade, two inches long. One of the smaller mounds yielded up five skeletons and a mass of flint and agate chips.

At the west end of Battle lake, near the outlet, there is another group of mounds which seem to be very ancient, as they have been weathered down more than any of the others, and those which have been examined show nothing but bone-dust, ashes, bits of charcoal, and, in one instance, a fragment of coarse woven matting. One of these mounds is twelve feet high, another is seventy-five feet long by five feet high. There are about a dozen mounds in this group. On a bold bluff overlooking the Red river, a short distance below where it leaves Otter Tail lake, is a group of eighteen mounds; seventeen of these are small, from two and a half feet to four feet high and from twelve to twenty feet in diameter. The eighteenth mound, which stands on the highest part of the bluff, is as large as all the others put together. Several of these mounds have been partially excavated and several skulls and parts of skeletons taken out; also some clay balls the size of medium-sized marbles, some stone implements, agate knife blades and flint and agate chippings.

Dead lake seems to have been a favorite haunt of these people. At two places on the south shore there have been extensive villages, and many specimens of pottery, arrow points, spear-heads, stone hammers and other utensils have been found. One of these village sites, where Dead river leaves the lake, seems to have been protected on two sides by the lake, on the third by the river, and on the fourth by a canal cut from the lake to the river, thus practically making an island of the village site. On the north shore of Dead lake, in Perham township, is a most interesting group of mounds. The bluff here is densely wooded and hard maple trees, eighteen inches in diameter, are growing on some of the mounds. The mounds here are very numerous and of great variety. The largest round mound is about ten feet high and sixty feet in diameter. A partial examination of this mound brought to light a few agates, pieces of stone hammers, a quantity of charcoal and fragments of human bones. Directly north of this round mound is found a group. The longest mound in this group is two hundred and forty feet long by twelve feet wide and four to five feet in height. The long mounds on the north and south are of the same width and height, but only sixty and forty-two feet long, respectively. The round mounds are exactly alike, about fifteen feet in diameter and five feet high. None of these mounds have been thoroughly examined. Of the structure of these mounds all that have been excavated are similar. At a level with the surrounding surface a layer of coarse gravel is found, then a layer of sand, then more gravel, and over this a layer of black surface soil varying in thick-

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ness from two to ten feet. If the mounds have been used for burial, the skeletons are in nearly every case found on the layer of sand.

It is safe to say that Otter Tail county is as rich in prehistoric remains as any county in the state. In all cases the sand and gravel have been brought from the lake beach, and fragments of shells are frequently found in these layers.

CAPT. JOHN POPE'S TRIP THROUGH OTTER TAIL COUNTY IN 1849.

In 1849 the secretary of war directed Major Samuel Woods, of the Sixth United States Infantry, then stationed at Ft. Snelling, to make an expedition to Pembina to investigate and report upon conditions in that section of the county. He was directed especially to investigate and report upon the charges made by American traders that British traders and agents had been and were trespassing upon the trading districts and buffalo grounds of the United States in that region.

Accompanying him was an escort of the Fortieth United States Dragoons. Capt. John Pope, of the United States Topographical Engineers, was detailed to accompany the expedition for the purpose of making a map of the country and especially of the route traveled. The expedition started from Ft. Snelling in September, 1849, and made its first stop at Sauk Rapids; thence the party traveled westwardly to the junction of the Sioux Wood and Red rivers; thence up the west bank of the Red river, through what is now North Dakota, to Pembina. The return trip was made by way of the Red river, East Grand Forks and Sauk Rapids.

Captain Pope came up the Red river to the mouth of the Otter Tail river; thence up the latter river to Otter Tail lake; thence through the lake and other lakes and portages to Leaf river; thence down Leaf river to the Crow Wing; thence down the Crow Wing to the Mississippi. He made a full and most instructive report of the country he traversed and of his trip generally.

What he has to say of Otter Tail lake, as he saw it in the fall of 1849, ought to be of interest to every citizen of Otter Tail county. The following extract from his report to the secretary of war in 1850, as printed in the executive reports of the thirty-first congress (Sen. Doc., No. 42, 31st Con., 1st Ses.) contains such parts of his report as applies to Otter Tail county.

CAPTAIN POPE IN OTTER TAIL COUNTY.

"On the 12th of September, 1849, we left the mouth of the Sioux Wood river (at Breckinridge) with the expectation of reaching within four days the Otter Tail lake. Above the mouth of the Sioux Wood, the Red river takes the name of the Otter Tail Lake river, and, with a constant depth of water of four feet, becomes much more tortuous in its course. As we

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approached the Leaf mountains, at the point where the river debouches from it into the level plains to the north, the current becomes sensibly more rapid and the water clearer, until, about fifteen miles east of the crossing of the land route we found it necessary to use the cordelle. The banks also became much higher, with a tract of level, swampy land three-fourths of a mile in width between them, the river running from side to side through the swamp in the most serpentine manner. Small islands began to be numerous, and the steep banks were perforated in a thousand places with clear, cold springs. The woods along the banks became also much larger and more dense, oaks being the common tree. At about thirty miles above the mouth of the Sioux Wood river the rapids commence and are almost continuous to Otter Tail lake.

"There are two and a half and three feet of water over the rapids and in the intervening pools of still water, about three and a half feet. The bed of the river is filled with loose boulders of all sizes and the deep water assumes an extremely crooked channel among them. Every hour of our advance toward the east increased the amount of heavy timber on the banks, and we began, also, to perceive at various distances on each side large groves of heavy timber upon the borders of numerous lakes, which I have described as forming so peculiar a feature of the country between the Mississippi and St. Peter. We had thus again entered the second general division of country I have described in a previous part of this report, and as we progressed toward the east the lakes became much more numerous and the timber much heavier and more abundant.

"From Otter Tail lake to its entrance in Leaf mountains the river passes through a number of beautiful lakes, surrounded by rolling country, heavily timbered, with a depth of water from nine to twenty feet, and filled with the most luxuriant growth of wild rice. The largest and most beautiful of these is Lake Gardner, which is within eight miles of Otter Tail lake. On the 14th of September we reached the mouth of the Little Pelican river, which, at its confluence with Otter Tail river, is about twenty yards wide and about three feet deep.

"On the morning of the 17th we arrived at Otter Tail lake and encamped near its northeastern extremity, at the remains of several small trading houses. Upon entering this lake from the southwest the woods to the northeast, although very large, are not visible, and it is by far the largest sheet of water we have seen. It is about ten miles in length from southwest to northeast, and from four to five miles in width. It is filled with fish, with clear, pure water, with a depth of twenty feet, and no islands. The fish are white and said to be the same known as the white fish of the Great Lakes, so celebrated for their flavor.

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"To the west, northwest and northeast, the whole country is heavily timbered with oak, elm, ash, maple, birch, bass, etc. Of these the sugar-maple is probably the most valuable. In the vicinity of Otter Tail lake large quantities of maple sugar are manufactured by the Indians. The wild rice, which exists in these lakes in the most lavish profusion, constitutes a most necessary article of food with the Indians, and is gathered in large quantities in the months of September and October. To the east the banks of the lake are fringed with heavy oak and elm timber to the width of one mile. The whole region of country for fifty miles in all directions around this lake is among the most beautiful and fertile in the world.

"The fine scenery of lake and open groves of oak timber, of winding stream connecting them, and beautiful rolling country on all sides, renders this portion of Minnesota the 'garden spot of the Northwest.' It is impossible in a report of this character to describe the feelings of admiration and astonishment when we first beheld this charming country in the vicinity of the lake. And were I to give expression to my own feelings and opinions in reference to it, I fear they would be considered the ravings of a visionary or an enthusiast. * * *

"The Indians who reside along the bank informed me that the whole country toward the Crow Wing river and the heads of the North Red river and Mississippi contained very little prairie, but was covered with dense groves of oak and elm, interspersed with spruce forests of pine.

"I employed the Indians during the 17th and 18th days of September in making rude maps of all the country in the vicinity of the lake. From their accounts there can be but little doubt that the whole region of country to the north and east of Otter Tail lake, comprising the valleys of the North Red river, Crow Wing and Mississippi rivers, is among the most beautiful and fertile portions of the northwest. I am not aware that it has ever been traversed by any white person, but it appears most desirable to me that it should be carefully examined at as early a date as practicable.

"On the 19th we made a portage of one mile towards the east to a small round lake about one mile in diameter. This lake is completely isolated, having no apparent outlet or inlet, and from the dip of the land and the evident marks of an artificial obstruction, said to be a beaver dam, I am quite satisfied that the lake at one time discharged its waters into Otter Tail lake. The evidences of this kind of obstructions are numerous through this region of the country, and whatever may be the theory as to the original extent of these waters, it is quite certain that the largest of the lakes has been divided into several smaller ones by the occurrence of these artificial dams.

"The small lake on which we again embarked in our canoe is about ten feet deep, the water very clear. No doubt it contains abundance of fish. A

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second portage, over another dam of the same character, brought us to another lake about the same size; a third portage of about half a mile through dwarf oaks found us at the western extremity of Leaf lake, the source of Leaf river, which is a tributary of Crow Wing river. We had thus, in two hours, passed with our boat and baggage from the waters of the Red river of the North, which flows into Hudson bay, to the waters flowing into the Gulf of Mexico."

Thus closes the first description of Otter Tail county which has been found in any printed account. Sixty-seven years have elapsed since Captain Pope passed through the country and, could he return to the scene which he so well described at that time, he would see no less than fifty thousand people within a radius of forty miles of Otter Tail lake. Truly has this territory fulfilled all that its first explorer claimed for it; it is the "garden spot of the Northwest."

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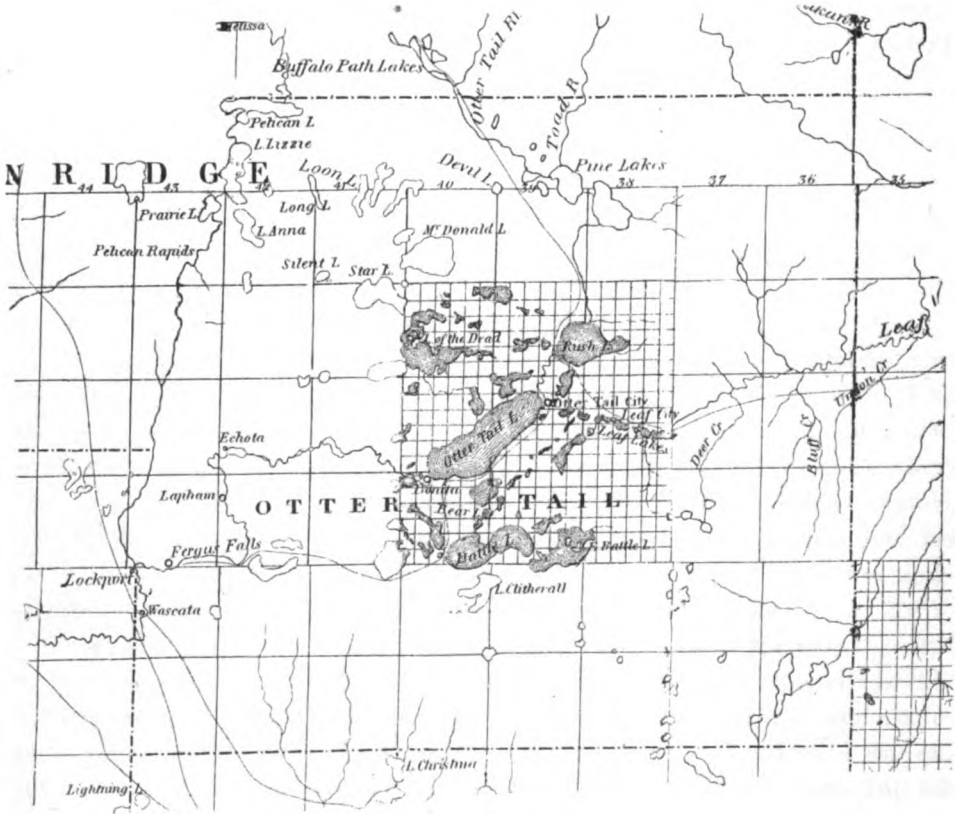
CHAPTER III.

OTTER TAIL COUNTY IN 1860

The accompanying map of Otter Tail county is a photographic reproduction of that part of Sewall's map of Minnesota, published in 1860, which contains Otter Tail county. It was made by J. S. Sewall from plats in the government surveyor-general's office at St. Paul and published by Sewall & Iddings, of St. Paul. At that time only nine congressional townships in the county had been surveyed and made ready for sale and settlement. Several tracts had been entered and some improvements had been made by the settlers.



OTTER TAIL COUNTY IN 1860.

At that time the county had the same boundaries as at the present time, with the exception of the western boundary. The act of March 18, 1858, defined the western boundary as follows: Beginning where the line dividing townships 137 and 138 cross the Pelican river (in range 42); "thence down the Pelican river, through Pelican lake and Lizzie and Prairie lakes, to the

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mouth of said rivers; thence south to the township line between townships 130 and 131." The acts of March 10, 1860, March 8, 1861, and March 6, 1862, placed the western boundary on the line dividing ranges 43 and 44. The act of February 28, 1872, added range 44.

The light lines extending through the county represent trails between Crow Wing, St. Cloud and other points south and east, and Pembina, Ft. Abercrombie, St. Vincent and other points north and west. There were no regularly established roadways in 1860 and the trails were mere paths through the forests, around the lakes, over the hills and across the prairies. The villages shown on the map were such only in name; the present generation recognizes only two of the villages on the map—Fergus Falls and Otter Tail City—and the latter has long since disappeared. Concerning Waseata, Lockport, Lapham, Echota, Leaf City and Bonita, other places on the Otter Tail county map of 1860, history has nothing to record other than their names. Otter Tail City and Waseata were postoffices in 1860, and Echota was actually incorporated by the legislature in 1858 (House Journal, 1852, page 656), but its history seems to have stopped with its incorporation. Nothing is known of the other places on the map.

The history of Otter Tail county during the decade 1858-68 presents many peculiarities. Organized by the legislative act of March 18, 1858, with a population which must have been very sparse and not to exceed a few score of souls, the county attracted quite a number of people to its confines within the next two years. The United States census of 1860 returned a population of two hundred forty for the county, but it is absolutely impossible at the present time to determine whether all of these people actually lived within the limits of the county. They were classed in the census as whites and mixed-blood Indians, "who had adopted the manners and customs of civilization." Many of the white men had, by common-law marriages and otherwise, obtained Indian wives, and most of these mixed marriages fully accorded with the late President's views concerning race suicide. The progeny resulting from these marriages helped to swell the census returns, if they served no other purpose. It should be said, however, in justice to these first settlers, that they lived on the whole, reputable lives. The Indian mothers had Christian names, as did their children, and many of them had been baptized in the Christian faith. And it must be remembered that they were considered citizens of the United States and of the state of Minnesota.

Even before 1860, it appears from some authorities, religious services had been held in Otter Tail City. According to one account there was an Episcopal mission there in charge of Rev. James L. Breck, who labored hard, if unsuccessfully, to make converts of the heathen Chippewas, and, it

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might be said, of the white people who were in many cases as much in need of his missionary efforts as their Indian brothers. The Otter Tail City mission was connected with that at Gull lake, and Reverend Breck divided his time between the two stations. He had formerly been stationed at Leech lake, but in 1859 was driven from that post by some drunken Indians, who plundered the stores, destroyed the mission house and menaced the lives of the missionary and his assistants. He then went to Gull lake and Otter Tail City, and as far as is known, continued to labor in these two missions until the massacre of 1862. At that time the mission at Gull lake was destroyed by other drunken and malevolent Indians, Chippewas, not Sioux. (See Andreas's Atlas, 1874), "Protestant Missions" in Minnesota Historical Society Collections, Vol. 6.)

There was also a United States land office at Otter Tail City, with George B. Clitherall, of Alabama, as register, and William Sawyer, of Ohio, as receiver. It might be mentioned in this connection that both men were appointees of President Buchanan, and left the county at the opening of the Civil War. Clitherall did not serve in the Confederate army, as has been asserted by some, but did drill some soldiers for his state. He died in Mobile, Alabama, in October, 1890.

By the summer of 1860 nine congressional townships had been surveyed in Otter Tail county and several claims and entries made thereon. At that time (1860) there was no homestead law, which meant that many of these settlers must have been squatters. The homestead act was passed by congress in 1862, and until that time settlers had to buy their land direct from the government at rates varying from one dollar twenty-five cents to two dollars fifty cents an acre.

A study of the 1860 census return for the county gives a good view of the various industries of the county seat. There were three stores, or what were then commonly called trading houses, in the village. Donald McDonald was the first trader to locate in the place and he was followed by Duncan McDougall and Francois Belleair. McDonald was an old man at this time and fitted in well with life on the frontier. He had been trading up and down the Red river as early as 1837 and had come to what is now Otter Tail county some years before 1858. But just when he first settled in Otter Tail City will probably never be known, although there are still many people living in the county to remember the quaint old character. No one seems to have ever heard him say when he came to this county and practically all the definite information preserved regarding this pioneer merchant of the county is summed up in the census of 1860. He was one of the very few white men to stay in the county during the Civil War and he continued to reside here for many years afterwards. He had a mixed-blood wife, just

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what the mixture was history does not record, but she was "Aunt Genevieve" to every one who knew her, which may show that she was held in affection by them. She was a Red Lake Chippewa in part, and was evidently, if tradition reports correctly, an Indian of high birth.

A history of Becker county says that, in 1854, "Donald McDonald, of Otter Tail lake, built a log house on the northeast shore of Detroit lake (in Becker county), on the little prairie a few rods west of where the Pelican river enters the lake. After trading there with the Indians for about two years he returned to Otter Tail."

Concerning the other two storekeepers still less is known. McDougall was a young man of thirty-two, a native of upper Canada, with an Indian wife and five children, all of whom were, according to the census, born in Minnesota. The third trader, Francois Belleair, was a half-breed, as was his wife, Betsy.

In addition to the three merchants there were other occupations represented in the village. William R. Atkinson, a native of New York, was the proprietor of the village caravansary, and since his personal property was listed at one thousand dollars he appears to have had a well-ordered hostelry. Strange as it may seem, there was returned a ship carpenter, one George Simpson, native of Maine, who gave his occupation as such to the enumerator. Whether he followed his vocation on the banks of the lake is not known. Among the other occupations represented in the census return may be mentioned surveyors, blacksmiths, farmers, laborers, teamsters, nurses, mail carriers, servants, housekeepers, lumbermen, coopers, carpenters and stage drivers. The great majority of these were listed either as farmers or laborers.

According to Sewall's map of Minnesota for 1860, there were at that time four real or so-called villages in the county. These were as follow: Otter Tail City, on the eastern side of the lake of the same name; Echota, eight miles northeast of the present site of Fergus Falls, on Red river, in Friberg township; Bonita, at the southwest end of Otter Tail lake; Waseata, in section 17, township 132, range 43, about four miles southwest of Fergus Falls; Marion, on south side of Otter Tail lake. For some inexplicable reason the legislature of 1858 incorporated the "town of Echota" (House Journal, page 656; also chapter 163, Laws of 1858), but there its history stops. If any persons ever lived on that site while it was incorporated as a village, history fails to preserve their names. The incorporating act designated John Mininger as president, Joseph B. Harm as recorder and Nathan Johnson, M. Groff and James K. Hoffman as justices of the village. Who these men were, where they came from and whence they departed not even tradition records. Another village in Otter Tail county incorporated in 1858,

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but not shown on the map of 1860, is Marion. Nothing further is known of it than is recorded in the act incorporating it.

The census of Otter Tail county in 1860 was taken under the direction of Hon. Oscar Taylor, of St. Cloud, a lawyer and a Democratic politician. Subsequently he was a captain in the Minnesota Mounted Rangers, a member of the Legislature, county attorney of Stearns county for many years, a man of more than ordinary ability. He died in Kansas in 1905. The work of enumeration in Otter Tail county was done by a deputy, but just who he was is not now known. A manuscript copy in the handwriting of the deputy is now in the custody of the secretary of state at St. Paul. It is from this manuscript that the data for this chapter has been compiled. For some reason the inhabitants were enumerated by their postoffices. Why this method of listing them was followed is not known and it is reasonable to suppose that there were some listed at one or the other of the two postoffices in the county who were not residents of Otter Tail county. The inhabitants of the county, whose postoffice is given as Otter Tail City, are copied verbatim from the original records, as follow:

Free Inhabitants in the County of Otter Tail, State of Minnesota, whose postoffice is Otter Tail City.—Enumerated June 3, 1860.

William Sawyer, age 57; occupation, receiver U. S. land office; value of real estate, $30,000, and of personal property, $500; born in Ohio. Blanche, his wife, age 62; born in Penna.

George B. Clitherall, age 45; register U. S. land office; value of real estate, $50,000, and of personal, $8,000; born in North Carolina. His wife, Sallie Ann Clitherall, age 44; born in North Carolina. Their daughter, Elizabeth F. B. Clitherall, age 21; born in Alabama.

John Battle, age 15; no occupation; born in Alabama. (Very probably a colored servant of Clitherall's.)

Leon Hood, age 15; servant; born in Minnesota.

Donald McDonald, age 61; trader;; real estate, $500; personal, $500; born in Lower Canada. His wife, Genevieve, age 50; mixed blood; born in Minnesota. Their children, Peggy age 15, John 13, William 10; all born in Minnesota.

Albert Aubre, age 28; farmer; real estate, $500; personal, $100; born in Lower Canada. His wife, Katherine, age 18; mixed blood; born in Minnesota, as also their child, William, age one year.

Peter Bellanger, age 35; mixed blood; born in Minnesota, as also his son, Pierre, age 6.

Samuel Donnell, age 35;; farmer; real estate, $500; personal, $200; born in Maine.

Charlotte Rabbee, age 16; servant; Indian; born in Minnesota.

Joseph Couverette, age 30; laborer. His wife, Mary, age 25, and their daughter, Margaret, age 7; all mixed bloods and born in Minnesota.

William R. Atkinson, age 28; inn keeper; real estate, $1,000; personal, $1,000; born in New York. His wife, Eliza S., age 28; born in Lower Canada. Their child, Fanny F., age 8; born in Illinois.

Peter Barhyte, age 28; farm laborer; personal, $400; born in Pennsylvania.

William Cosland, age 20; laborer; personal, $150; born in Wisconsin.

Charles A. Ruffee, age 21; mail carrier; personal, $500; born in Nova Scotia (afterward lived at Crow Wing, where he was Indian agent for many years).

Henry Baldwin, age 22; mail carrier; personal, $500; born in Massachusetts.

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William M. Dole, age 23; farmer; real estate, $500; personal, $100; born in Pennsylvania.

William R. King, age 65; farmer; real estate, $200; personal, $50; born in England.

George Simpson, age 35; ship carpenter; personal, $200; born in Maine.

Leon Vanassee, age 31; laborer; real, $200; personal, $500; born in Lower Canada. His wife, Angelia, age 25; mixed blood; born in Minnesota.

Millie Dupee, age 15; mixed blood; born in Minnesota.

James McDougall, age 40; farmer; real, $250; personal, $150; born in Upper Canada. His wife, Betsy, age 23, and their children, Catherine age 5, Peter age 3, and Peggy age 10 months; all mixed bloods and born in Minnesota.

Duncan McDougall, age 32; trader; personal, $1,000; born in Upper Canada. His wife, Mary, age 27, and their children, Peter W. age 9, Catherine age 7, Susan age 5, Donald age 3 and Mary age 1; all born in Minnesota and mixed bloods.

Maxine Vanasse, age 38; laborer; real, $500; personal, $500; born in Lower Canada. His wife, Nancy, age 24, and their children, Andrew 7, Antoine 5, Isabel 4 and Maxine 2; all mixed bloods and born in Minnesota.

Francois Belleair, age 45; trader; real, $100; personal, $1,500. His wife, Betsy, age 30; both Minnesota mixed bloods.

Auguste Bellanger, age 56; farmer; real, $200; personal, $150. His wife, Charlotte, age 50. Their children, Francois, age 20, farm laborer, and Charlotte, age 15; all mixed bloods and born in Minnesota.

Pierre Bellanger, age 30; day laborer. His wife, Jane, age 25. Their children, Henry, age 10, Nancy, age 8, and Francois, age 6—all Minnesota mixed bloods.

Henry Bellanger, age 65; farm laborer. His wife, Nellie, age 20; Indian. Their children, Margaret, age 3, and Joseph, one year. All born in Minnesota; children and father mixed bloods.

Joseph Courette, age 30; laborer. His wife, Madeline, age 25, and their child, Charlotte; all Minnesota mixed bloods.

Joseph Bellanger, age 43. His wife, Nancy, age 35. Their children, Henry, age 17, laborer; Josette, age 12; Sarah, age 11; John, age 9; David, age 5; May, age 2, and Louis, six months; all Minnesota mixed bloods.

Charles W. Iddings, age 27; surveyor; real, $2,000; personal, $500; born in Pennsylvania.

Charles Roch, age 30; farmer; born in Baden, Germany.

Jane Pingre, age 20; servant; Minnesota Indian.

Benjamin F. Densmore, age 28; civil engineer; personal, $1,000; born in Ohio. Served in the Third Minnesota Infantry. His widow is still (1916) living.

William Fairbanks, age 39; farmer; real, $1,000;; personal, $600; born in Massachusetts. His wife, Annette, age 26 and their children, Ludy, age 9; Nancy, age 7; Sylvia, age 5, and Ephraim, age 3; Minnesota mixed bloods.

Peter Gerard, age 20; day laborer; born in Lower Canada.

Pierre LaDuc, age 47; farmer; real, $250; born in Lower Canada. His wife, Margaret, age 35; born in Lower Canada. Their children, Peter, age 14; John, age 5, and Mary, age 2; born in Minnesota.

Abram S. White, age 36; upholstered; real, $200; personal, $100; born in Maine.

Clark Swingle, age 24; laborer; personal, $100; born in Pennsylvania.

John La Porte, age 24; laborer; personal, $100; born in Lower Canada.

Edourd Belente, age 25; farmer; real, $500; personal, $150; born in Lower Canada.

Fabian LeFevre, age 26; laborer; real, $400; born in Lower Canada.

Jacob Sylvester, age 26; farmer; real, $500; personal, $300; born in Lower Canada.

Auguste Loon, age 21; laborer; personal, $150; born in Lower Canada.

Pierre Rouselle (or Peter Russell), age 24; farmer; real, $500; personal, $400; born in Lower Canada.

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Frank Gonje, age 23; laborer; personal, $100; born in Lower Canada.

John Bishop, age 25; farmer; real, $1,000; personal, $300; born in Upper Canada. (Probably the same Bishop who returned to the county after the Civil War.)

Reuben M. Mercer, age 24; laborer; born in Maine.

William Kilpatrick, age 24; blacksmith; personal, $1,000; born in Maine.

George Bancroft, age 17; apprentice; born in Wisconsin.

John Greely, age 19; laborer; personal, $100; born in Maine.

David Sutherland, age 45; lumberman; personal, $500; born in New Brunswick. His children, James Sutherland, age 18; laborer; personal, $100; William, age 15; Zebedee, age 11, and Lizzie, age 7; all born in Maine.

John Sutherland age 22; farmer; real, $300; personal, $100; born in Maine.

Charles W. Jones, age 18; farm laborer; personal, $50; born in Pennsylvania.

Patrick McElroy, age 33; laborer; personal, $100; born in Ireland. His wife, Margaret, age 27, born in Ireland, and their child, Patrick, Jr., age 3, born in Wisconsin.

Joseph Dusette, age 24; farmer; real, $1,000; personal, $100; born in Lower Canada.

William B. Gates, age 35; farmer; real, $2,300; personal, $4,000; born in Indiana. His wife, Emily R., 32, born in New York. Their children, William, 11, and Emily R., 7, born in Illinois, and George 5, Louis 3, and Charles R., six months, born in Minnesota.

Joshua R. Knight, age 29; laborer; personal, $100; born in Ohio.

George Herbert, age 28; teamster; personal, $500; born in South Carolina. His wife, Mary Jane, age 22, born in Virginia, and their child, William S., age 2, born in Minnesota.

Gustavus De Bois, age 26; laborer; personal, $200; born in Prussia. His wife, Sarah, age 23, born in Hanover, Germany, and their child, William S., born in Minnesota.

Karl Rochau, age 29; teamster; personal, $250; born in Hanover.

William G. Rochau, age 27; teamster; personal, $100; born in Hanover.

Joseph Einck, age 34; laborer; personal, $200; born in Hanover, Germany. His wife, Mary, age 30; born in Prussia. Their children, Karl 9, Mary 6, Joseph 4, born in Minnesota, and Elizabeth 7, born in Wisconsin.

Patrick McGinniss, age 39; farmer; real, $1,000; personal, $150; born in Ireland. His wife, Margaret, age 35; born in Ireland, as was their son, Thomas, 17, a laborer; William, 15, born in New York; Margaret, 11, in Illinois; Patrick, 9, in Wisconsin; James M., age 5, and Martin McLeod, age 3, born in Minnesota.

Douglass Craigie, age 47; farmer; real, $500; personal, $300; born in Scotland, as also his wife, Elizabeth, age 42, and their children, Catharine, 18, a teacher; William, 15; Wallace, 13; but Frank P., 11, was born in New York, and Mary E., 8, and Jane, 5, in Minnesota.

Thomas Carter, age 47; cooper; personal, $500; born in Maine.

Andrew Henry, age 30; teamster; personal, $800; born in New York. His wife, Melissa, age 26, born in Connecticut. Of the children, Andrew J., 7, born in Wisconsin; Mary Ann, 5, Charles A., 3, and Emma J., 4 months, born in Minnesota.

George W. Emery, age 34; carpenter; real, $200; personal, $250; born in New Hampshire. His wife, Ellen G., 29, born in Vermont. Of their children, Moses K., 12, born in New Hampshire; Samuel J., 8, in Illinois; Francis J., 5, Kimball, 3, and Louise, 7 months, born in Minnesota.

William Shattinell (Shottwell?), age 49; farmer; real, $2,500; personal, $400; born in Massachusetts. His wife, Hannah C., age 45, born in New Hampshire. Of their children, George W., 17, farm laborer, born in Massachusetts; Mary,

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14, and William G., 11, born in New York; Jane, 7, born in Wisconsin; Hannah J., 3, and Lizzie O., 2, born in Minnesota.

Thomas Higgins, age 38; laborer; personal, $400; born in Pennsylvania.

John Richards, age 28; laborer; personal, $100; born in New York.

William Richards, age 26; laborer; personal, $100; born in New York.

Bridget McMullin, age 28; housekeeper; born in Ireland.

Hugh McAlpin, age 37; farmer; real, $500; personal, $300; born in Scotland. His wife, Clara, 36, born in England. Of their children, John, 16, laborer, and Caroline, 13, born in Massachusetts; Hugh, 8, and Lizzie F., 5, born in Wisconsin; Jenny, 3, and Charles W., 7 months, born in Minnesota.

Michael Doran, age 42; laborer; personal, $50; born in Ireland. His wife, Susan, age 23; born in New York. Of their children, James, 4, born in Wisconsin; Michael, 2, and Bridget, one month, born in Minnesota.

Bridget Austin, age 44; nurse; personal, $150; born in Ireland.

Thomas Humphrey, age 29; teamster; born in Ireland.

WASEATA POSTOFFICE

As stated previously, the census of Otter Tail county was taken in two groups, one group being of those whose postoffice was at Otter Tail City, the other group getting their mail at Waseata. This latter postoffice was at Matthew Wright's mill, on the Red river, about four miles south and west of Fergus Falls. The place was commonly called Dayton and is now known in that vicinity as Dayton Hollow. The Otter Tail Power Company's dam is located within less than a hundred rods of where the Waseata postoffice stood. There seems to be considerable diversity of opinions as to the extent of the settlement in this vicinity. Most of the local authorities assert that there were no dwellings at Dayton except that of Matthew Wright and that his saw-mill was the only other building there, except, of course, the usual outbuildings which a farmer would have. Others maintain that there were from twelve to fifteen houses at or near Dayton and that all of them were destroyed at the time of the Indian outbreak in 1862. In view of what all the authorities have to say, it seems that the various buildings of Matthew Wright were the only buildings at or near Dayton. Some of the children of Matthew Wright are still living, one of them, Edwin M., having practiced law with Hon. John W. Mason in Fergus Falls for two years. This son was twenty-four years of age at the time of the massacre, was living at Dayton, and certainly would have known something about the reported twelve or fifteen houses. He never made mention of any other buildings or any other persons living at or near Dayton other than his own family.

In this connection may be given all the information concerning the massacre of 1862 which has any bearing on Dayton and the Wrights. Various authorities state that Edward J. Wright was orderly sergeant of a citizens' company composed of refugees, at Ft. Abercrombie. On September 23, 1862, but in the light of all the evidence now at hand it appears that the and thirty others rode out of Ft. Abercrombie for several miles as an escort

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to a messenger who was being sent to St. Paul. On returning to the fort on this same day the company was fired upon and Wright and another soldier were killed. The next morning a party went out from the fort and buried the two bodies. Edward's body was horribly mutilated. His father, Matthew, was with the party and, at his request, Rev. Blain held services over the remains. All authorities give September 23, 1862, as the date of his death. (See Bryant's "Massacre in Minnesota, page 253; Adjutant General's Report, 1862, page 106; North Dakota Historical Society Collections, Vol. I, page 418; Ibid., Vol. II, pages 17, 21, 92-93).

Future investigations may reveal other families resident at Dayton in 1862, but in the light of all the evidence now at hand it appears that the Wrights were the only family living there at the time. In the census return for 1860 there are forty listed with Waseata as their postoffice, but these might have lived, and undoubtedly did, in a radius of a score or more of miles of the postoffice. At this distance from the scene of action it is practically impossible to tell where they lived. The census itself gives no clue, farther than stating that they received their mail at Waseata. The complete list is here given:

Matthew Wright, age 50; farmer; real estate, $1,500; personal property, $1,000; born in Upper Canada. His wife, Mary Ann, age 47, born in New York. Their children, Caroline, age 20 (later the wife of Oscar Taylor, of St. Cloud); John W., age 15 (killed by the Indians in Dakota in 1876); Albert M., age 12 (now located in the west), born in Upper Canada; Martha E., age 10, born in Wisconsin (now married and living in Spokane, Washington). Editorial note: Matthew Wright was one of the very few of those listed in this census schedule to return to the county after the Civil War. Mention is made of him and other members of his family elsewhere in this volume.

Edwin M. Wright, age 24 (a son of Matthew Wright); farmer; real, $1,000; personal, $500; born in Upper Canada. (Edwin M. Wright later became a lawyer and was a partner of Hon. J. W. Mason, who has written a sketch of him which appears elsewhere in this volume.)

Edward J. Wright, age 22 (a son of Matthew Wright); laborer; personal, $500; born in Upper Canada.

Peter Schmidt (or Smith), age 24; farm laborer; personal, $400; born in Nassau, Germany. (Some authorities say that a Smith was killed at Dayton in 1862, and that his mangled remains were found there two weeks after his death by Captain Freeman.)

Ebenezer Briggs, age 28; blacksmith; personal, $250; born in Vermont. His wife, Jane, age 24, was born in Vermont, and their child, Andrew, age 5, born in Minnesota.

Andrew Jones, age 24; stage driver; born in New York.

Samuel Munn, age 41; laborer; personal, $400; born in New York. His wife, Jane, age 28, was born in Maine, and their children, Silas, 8, Henry, 7, Francis, 5, and Stewart, 3, were born in Minnesota.

Henry A. Bon, age 30; surveyor; real, $1,000; personal, $500; born in New Hampshire.

Margaret Little, age 14; born in Maine.

James Ryerson, age 38; farmer; real, $200; born in Pennsylvania. His wife, Bridget,

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31, born in Ireland. Their children, John, 5, Stephen, 3, George, 2, and Mary, 6 months, born in Minnesota.

John Dau (or Dow), age 24; laborer; personal, $100; born in Baden.

Christopher Kohl (or Cole), age 32; farmer; real, $200; born in Prussia. His wife, Mary, age 27, was born in Pennsylvania, and their child, Jane E., age 5, born in Minnesota.

George Fowleston, age 44; farmer; born in England, as also his wife, Jane, age 34, and one child, Harriet, age 7; other children, John, 4, and George, 2, born in Minnesota.

Joseph Whitford, age 35; farmer; real, $500; personal, $500; born in Vermont. Note—He was reported insane at the time of the census, but recovered and was killed later by the Indians. A letter of James Fergus to the *Fergus Falls Advocate* printed in its issue of June 29, 1872, is authority for the statement that Whitford was killed by the Indians near Fort Abercromble in 1862.

John Smith, age 38; laborer; personal, $3,000; born in Scotland. Note—It appears that Smith was living with Whitford in 1860, at the time of the census. He is reported to have been at Dayton in 1862 and to have been killed by the Indians at that place. The Adjutant-General's Report for 1862-63 (p. 187) says that as Captain Freeman was returning from Fort Abercromble to St. Cloud on September 30, 1862, they found at Dayton the body of one Smith, who had been murdered two weeks previously, and buried it. Whether this was the John Smith listed in 1860, or some other Smith (or Schmidt), is a matter of conjecture. It may have been the Peter Schmidt listed above.

William Carey, age 27; laborer; personal, $250; born in Ireland.

Peter Clark, age 42; laborer; personal, $100; born in Maine.

PROPERTY STATISTICS IN 1860.

The only actual record of the industrial and agricultural life of Otter Tail county prior to 1870 is found in the census report of 1860. According to this report there were only fourteen land and live stock owners in the county at that time. There may have been more, but the records fail to disclose any more than this number. The names of these fourteen landed proprietors, with the items of their personal property as connected with the operation and productions of their land, are shown below. This record is taken from the original record on file in the office of the secretary of state at St. Paul. Unfortunately, the records do not show where these pioneers of industry lived, but they are all credited to Otter Tail county, and are given here in the order in which they appear on the original records:

William Fairbanks, 150 acres of unimproved land, valued at $150; also 1 cow, 2 work cattle and 5 hogs, value $200.

Edouard Belente, 5 acres of improved and 155 acres unimproved land, valued at $500; also 2 work cattle, value $100.

Jacob Sylvester, 5 acres improved and 155 acres unimproved land, valued at $500; also $500 worth of farm implements, 1 cow and 4 work oxen, value $200.

Peter Russell (or Rousselle), 80 acres unimproved land, valued at $400; also 1 cow, value $30.

John Bishop, 10 acres improved and 150 acres unimproved land, valued at $1,000; also farm implements valued at $100; also 1 cow, 2 oxen and 2 other cattle, value $200. Note—Hon. E. E. Curliss is of the opinion that Bishop returned to county after 1862.

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Cornelius P. V. Lull, 160 acres improved land and 160 unimproved land, valued at $4,000; also 4 horses, 4 cows, 6 work cattle, 2 other cattle, 4 hogs—total value of $700; the previous year he had harvested 250 bushels of wheat, 100 bushels of rye, 1,500 bushels of corn, and 1,000 bushels of oats. Note: Lull was born in New York and came to St. Paul in 1847. He was a carpenter by trade. The first number of the *Minnesota Pioneer*, the first newspaper printed in Minnesota, was issued from his shop in April, 1849. He was the first sheriff of Ramsey county and was otherwise prominent in the early affairs of Minnesota. He was badly wounded while a citizen soldier engaged in defending Fort Abercrombie against an Indian attack in the fall of 1862. He died in the St. Paul City hospital March 2, 1897. It is not known in what part of Otter Tail county he lived in 1860, and there seems to be reason to doubt whether he should be listed as a resident of the county. In the regular population schedule his name is not given, being one of five of the fourteen landowners whose name does not appear.

Matthew Wright, 25 acres improved and 295 acres unimproved land, valued at $3,000; also $250 worth of farming implements; also 4 cows, 6 oxen, 5 other cattle, and 3 hogs, all valued at $600; the previous year (1859) he had raised 180 bushels of oats. Wright and his family fled to Ft. Abercrombie in the fall of 1862, at the time of the Indian massacre, and they were one of the very few families to return to the county after the Civil War. The Wrights were located in section 17 of present Buse township, where the elder Wright had constructed a saw-mill in the latter part of the fifties.

John Kerr, 15 acres improved and 145 acres of unimproved land, valued at $800; also $200 worth of farming implements; also 4 cows, and 4 work cattle, value $250; raised 100 bushels of wheat, 220 bushels of corn and 50 bushels of oats in 1859. (Kerr's name does not appear in the population schedule.)

William Kerr, 20 acres improved and 140 acres unimproved land, valued at $1,000; also $300 worth of farm implements; also 2 horses, 5 cows, 2 work cattle, 4 other cattle, 5 hogs, all valued at $400. (Kerr's name does not appear in the population schedule.)

John Kimble (or Kimball), 10 acres improved and 150 acres of unimproved land, valued at $800; also $200 worth of farm implements; also 1 horse, 1 cow, 2 work cattle, 2 other cattle, all valued at $300; had raised 100 bushels of rye and 300 bushels of corn in 1859. (Kimble's name does not appear in the population schedule.)

Samuel Donnell, 15 acres improved and 145 acres of unimproved land, valued at $800; also $150 worth of farm implements; 4 work cattle, value $200; had raised 200 bushels of corn and 100 bushels of oats in 1859.

Joseph Dusette, 16 acres improved and 144 acres unimproved land, valued at $1,000; also $100 worth of farm implements; also 2 work cattle, value $100; had raised 50 bushels of corn in 1859.

James McDougall, 10 acres improved and 150 acres of unimproved land, valued at $1,000; also $75 worth farm implements; also 2 cows and 2 oxen, value $150; raised 100 bushels corn in 1859.

Francois Bellanger, 15 acres improved and 100 unimproved land, valued at $500; also farm implements worth $100; also 2 horses, 2 oxen, 2 hogs, total value $200; also had raised 150 bushels of Indian corn in 1859. (There are four Bellangers in the population schedule, but not one by the name of Francois.)

A summary of the facts as set forth in the above tabulated statement reveals some very interesting things. It is seen that there was only three hundred six acres of improved land in the county, and of this total acreage

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Lull, whoever he may have been, had one hundred sixty acres. No one at the present time seems able to identify his farm with any in the county. According to the best authority he was living at Breckinridge at this time, and, being a large landowner, it is possible he may have had some land in this county. There was a total of two thousand one hundred nineteen acres of improved land held by the fourteen landowners. In the way of live stock the totals for the county run as follows: Oxen, 40; cows, 24; other cattle, 15; hogs, 14; horses, 9. Of course, in the village of Otter Tail City there must have been a few cows and horses, and perhaps a pig or two, but no return was made of any live stock save that belonging to the fourteen men listed as land and live stock owners. It is interesting to note that there was considerable corn raised in the county at this time; the grain crops for 1859 stood as follow: Corn, 2,520 bushels; oats, 2,320 bushels; wheat, 350; rye, 200. Over half of the wheat crop and nearly half of the oat crop was raised by Lull. The total value of the farming implements was returned at $2,425.

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CHAPTER IV.

ORGANIZATION OF OTTER TAIL COUNTY.

The first mention of Otter Tail county in the history of Minnesota appears in an act of the state Legislature which was passed on March 18, 1858, which gave the county its first territorial limits. The Legislature of that year (the last Territorial Legislature) organized the whole state, hitherto unorganized, into counties of various sizes and shapes. One of these many counties so organized was Otter Tail and it is interesting to note the limits of the county as defined by this act:

"Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Minnesota: That so much territory as is embraced in the following described limits, be, and the same is hereby created into the county of Otter Tail: Commencing at the southwest corner of township No. 131, range 36 west; thence north on the range line between ranges 35 and 36, thirty-six miles, to the northeast corner of township 137, range 36; thence west to the Pelican river; thence down the Pelican river, through Pelican lake, and Lizzie and Prairie lakes, to the mouth of said river; thence south to the township line between townships 130 and 131; thence east to the place of beginning. The county seat is hereby temporarily established at Otter Tail City."

A glance at the map reveals the fact that the western limits of the county as defined by this act of 1858 did not follow section lines, not even from the mouth of the Pelican river to the southern boundary of the county. The greater part of the Pelican river is in range 43, although it enters the county at the extreme northeastern corner of present Dunn township. However, before the county was formally organized in the fall of 1868, the Legislature altered the western limits and made the line dividing ranges 43 and 44 the boundary.

Before 1868 there were three acts passed by the state Legislature regarding the boundaries of the county. The first act (March 10, 1860) provided for a change in the western boundary in case a favorable vote on the proposition should be carried, but if an election was held, there is no record of it extant. The next Legislature passed a second act (March 8, 1861), which also failed of adoption because it was not voted upon. The third act (March 6, 1862) merely affirmed the boundaries of the county as defined by the acts of March 10, 1860, and March 8, 1861. No change was made in the territorial limits of the county between 1862 and 1868, when the county was formally organized.

An "organized county," as the term is used in the Constitution of

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Minnesota, means a county which is organized in fact, and has its lawful officers, legal machinery and the means of carrying out the powers and performing the duties pertaining to it as a quasi-municipal corporation. An act of the Legislature declaring a county to be organized, and providing for the appointment of the necessary officers to institute a county government, does not make it an organized county. There must be people in the county, and the executive department of the state must act, before it is organized in fact. Whenever, by reason of war or other cause, there are no people in what was at one time an organized county, and there is no semblance of a county government within its limits, it is not, in the meaning of the Constitution, an organized county. In such a case there are no rights or interests, public or private, which the restrictions of the Constitution were intended to protect. In the case of Otter Tail county, although in one sense it was organized by the act of 1858, yet, as a result of the Indian troubles of 1862, the county became practically depopulated and so few remained that it was impossible to maintain the semblance of a county government.

A word should be said in this connection concerning the origin of the name of the county. The name "Otter Tail" is applied not only to the county, but also to its largest lake, to a river, a township, and to a village. The first seat of justice of the county was called Otter Tail City, but this place is not to be confused with the present village of Ottertail, which is situated about two miles east of the head of Otter Tail lake in Otter Tail township. At the head of Otter Tail lake is a narrow ridge of land one mile and a half long by two or three rods in width, and curved to the contour of the head of the lake. This peculiar strip has been forced up by ages of expanding ice and year by year its length has been extended as teh inflowing river was forced across its point. It was this fantastical topographical feature suggested to the Ojibways the name Otter Tail, and thus the name became first applied to the lake, then to the "city" that sprang up at the head, to the township which contained the city and part of the lake, and finally to the county which embraced the lake, river, township and village—and all of the same name.

Although Otter Tail county was first defined by the act of 1858, it was not until ten years later that the county was formally organized with a complete set of county officers. This decade however, is not devoid of historical incidents, but owing to the fact that there were no local newspapers and written accounts have been preserved of this period its annals depend largely upon tradition. It seems certain that Otter Tail lake was well known to the French explorers as early as 1800, but there is no conclusive evidence that they ever effected a permanent settlement within the limits of the county. Tradition is also responsible for an account of a

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sanguinary conflict between the Sioux and Chippewas off the shores of Battle lake, the name of the lake having been applied as result of this battle. How many canoes were in this naval conflict, how many dusky warriors fell before the arrows of the enemy, how long the contest lasted, and which side came out victorious are facts which will probably never be known.

Immediately after the territorial legislature of Minnesota organized all of the then unorganized territory into counties, parties of surveyors were sent to the northern part of the state to get the land ready for entry. To Otter Tail county came a number of southern Democrats, who followed on the heels of Major George B. Clitherall, the first register of the land office at Otter Tail City. William Sawyer was the first receiver, and from what can be learned it appears that Clitherall and Sawyer were the heads of a large land syndicate which was looking forward to populating Minnesota with southern sympathizers. It must be recalled that this was before the Civil War, and during the days when President Buchanan was using every effort within his power to give the south as much advantage as possible. That Otter Tail county for the first two or three years of its history was under the domination of the slave element is evidenced by the fact that as soon as the war was declared in 1861, Major Clitherall left Otter Tail county and returned to Alabama. How many others left the county to join the Southern forces will probably never be known.

Otter Tail county was not the only part of northern Minnesota where Southern influence was manifest during Buchanan's administration. The influence of Robert Toombs of Georgia, Jefferson Davis of Mississippi and John C. Breckenridge is seen in the naming of counties in Minnesota during this period. It is certain that these men were interested in the survey of lands in Otter Tail county and adjoining sections of the state. As soon as the surveyors plats were returned to the land office the lands were put in the market at private entry or cash at $1.25 per acre. Large tracts were entered by one C. F. Yowe as trustee for the southerners who were interested in the syndicate operating in Minnesota, and there seems to have been a concentrated effort on the part of the promoters of the syndicate to get settlers to locate in the county. By 1860 the population had increased to two hundred and forty as returned by Oscar Taylor, United States census enumerator for the district including Otter Tail county, and it is fair to presume that a great majority of these settlers were living around Otter Tail lake and in close proximity to the county seat.

Otter Tail City, the county seat provided by the act of 1858, boasted of five log houses in 1858, and Hon. E. E. Corliss, the first county attorney, states that these same five houses were still standing when he first saw the "City" in 1870. The authority for stating that five houses were in Otter

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Tail City as early as 1858 is furnished by a sketch made by Manton Marvel, of the *New York World*, who at the head of a party of explorers passed through Otter Tail City in the summer of that year. This sketch was published in *Harpers Magazine* in 1860 (Vol. 22) and shows five log houses with various outbuildings. It is also definitely known that the Wrights had a house and saw-mill at Dayton in the township of Buse where the Otter Tail Power Company's lower dam is now located, but this could not have embraced more than a dozen persons, or more probably, a half dozen.

Whatever the number may have been in 1862 it is certain that most of them, if not all, left the county during the Indian outbreak of that year. The Indians commenced hostilities in the valley of the Red river on August 23, 1862, and within a few days had so terrorized the settlers of that part of the state that they left their homes to the mercy of the savages and fled to the nearest forts. The governor issued a proclamation ordering the settlers in Otter Tail county to assemble at Fort Abercrombie which was then garrisoned by Company D, Fifth Regiment, Minnesota Infantry, under the command of Captain John Van der Horck. Early on the morning of the 23rd of August a band of five hundred Sissetons and Yanktons crossed the Red river about ten or twelve miles west of Fergus Falls, at what was afterwards called the Sibley ford on the eastern side of Wilkin county, with the intention of capturing a train of goods and cattle en route for Red lake, where a treaty was to be made with the Chippewas. The train was at once ordered to take refuge in Ft. Abercrombie and they were glad to avail themselves of this opportunity of saving themselves and their property. Most of the settlers in Otter Tail and the surrounding counties managed to reach the fort unharmed, and as far as is known none were killed by the Indians in Otter Tail county, although one of the sons of Matthew Wright was killed by the Indians before he reached the fort.

It will probably never be known how many settlers remained in the county during the Civil War. At least two courageous settlers, Scotchmen by birth, Macdonald and McDougle by name, did not leave the county at the time of the Indian uprising. This may be accounted for in large part by the fact that they had married Indian women. As soon as the Indian uprising was quelled and the settlers had nothing to fear from a second invasion, they began to return to their old homes in the county and by 1868 the county was sufficiently populated to warrant its creation as a separate political organization. The census of 1870 gave the county a population of 1,968, and it is reasonable to presume that considerably more than half of this number had come into the county prior to the fall of 1868.

The legislative act formally organizing the county was passed March 16,

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1868, and this act changed the western boundary to the line dividing ranges 43 and 44. The act follows:

"The county of Otter Tail is established and bounded as follows: Beginning at the northwest corner of township 137, of range 43; thence eastwardly on the line between townships 137 and 138, to the northeast corner of township 137, of range 36; thence southwardly on the line between ranges 35 and 36, to the southeast corner of township 131, of range 36; thence westwardly on the line between townships 130 and 131, to the southwest corner of township 131, of range 43; thence northwardly on the line between ranges 43 and 44, to the place of beginning."

This act gave the county its present limits, with the exception of the six congressional townships in range 44.

Pursuant to the act of 1868, the governor of the state appointed Marcus Shaw and Chancey Whiting as the first county commissioners. They met at the house of the former in Clitherall on September 12, 1868, and proceeded to effect the organization of the county. From this date until 1873 the county was endeavoring to get its county seat and territorial limits established. This period of five years witnessed no less than three legislative acts, each providing for a vote on the changing of the limits of the county. During this same interval the question of a permanent location for the county seat added to the unrest generated by the bickering over boundary lines. The root of all the trouble lay in the fact that the county was too large for the scanty population. Six legislative acts were passed between 1870 and 1873 bearing on Otter Tail county, and it is necessary at this point to discuss these in their order.

ACT OF FEBRUARY 28, 1870.

The great majority of the people of the county were living in the neighborhood of Clitherall in 1868, and for a couple of years the commissioners met in the village of Clitherall for the transaction of business. This was done despite the fact that the county seat was supposed to be located at Otter Tail City by the legislative act organizing the county. By 1870 the population had greatly increased and it was felt that a permanent location should be found for the county seat. The citizens of the county at this juncture seemed to have decided that the seat of justice should be at Tordenskjold, an embryonic urban center which did not boast of more than two houses at the time. The Legislature was appealed to and responded by passing an act on February 28, 1870, which established the county seat at the village of Tordenskjold. In view of the fact that very few people in the county are even aware of the existence of a village of this name in the early history of the county, the act making it the county seat is here given in full:

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"Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Minnesota:

"Section 1—That the county seat of Otter Tail county be and the same is hereby established at the town of Tordenskjold, in said county, situated on the southwest quarter of section number 32, township number 132, of range 41.

"Section 2—The acts of the commissioners and other officers of said county are hereby legalized, and said county is hereby detached from Douglas county for judicial purposes.

"Section 3—This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage."

This act failed to include a provision for allowing the people of the county to vote on the question, and as a result it was rescinded by the next Legislature. However, before that time the commissioners had ordered a thousand-dollar court house and jail built at Tordenskjold, but the act of 1871, removing the county seat to Otter Tail City, became effective before any steps were taken to build.

ACT OF FEBRUARY 16, 1871.

As has just been stated, the act establishing the county seat at Tordenskjold was unconstitutional because it did not provide for the submission of the question of the removal to the qualified voters of the county. The act, re-establishing the seat of justice at Otter Tail City, is as follows:

"An act to amend chapter ninety-four of the Special Laws of 1870, relating to the county seat of Otter Tail county.

"Whereas, By an act of the Legislature of the state of Minnesota, approved March 18, 1858, the county seat of Otter Tail county was established at Otter Tail City; and,

"Whereas, An act of the Legislature of the said state was passed February 28, 1870, establishing the county seat of said county at the town of Tordenskjold, in said county, and no provision having been made in said last-mentioned act for submitting said law to a vote of the electors of said county, as prescribed in the Constitution of this state, and no vote having been had thereon; now, therefore,

"Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Minnesota:

"Section 1—That section one of chapter ninety-four of the Special Laws of 1870 be and the same is hereby repealed.

"Section 2—That the county seat of said county of Otter Tail be and the same is hereby re-established and confirmed at Otter Tail City.

"Section 3—This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage. Approved, February 16, 1871."

The county seat was but fairly established at Otter Tail City when affairs in the county took a turn which was ultimately to cause the aspiring

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village not only to lose the seat of justice, but its very existence as well. The year prior to the location of the county seat in Otter Tail City the Northern Pacific Railroad had planned to extend its line through the county by way of the village, but when it came to getting the right of way it encountered violent opposition on the part of Thomas Cathcart, one of the largest landowners in that vicinity. In fact, the stubbornness of this man was undoubtedly the cause of the railroad leaving the village many miles from its line, and eventually resulted in the county seat being transferred to Fergus Falls. Within one year an act of the Legislature proposed the removal of the seat of justice to the latter place, and in a very short time Otter Tail City was as truly a deserted village as any Goldsmith ever dared to depict.

THE ACT OF MARCH 4, 1871.

The same Legislature which re-established the county seat at Otter Tail City passed an act (March 4, 1871), providing for the organization of a new county to be known by the name of Holcomb, with its county seat at Fergus Falls. It requires no stretch of the imagination to see why this second act was passed. Most of the people of the county lived nearer to Fergus Falls than to Otter Tail City, and were in favor of the organization of the new county provided that Fergus Falls should be its county seat. George B. Wright and Ernest Buse were undoubtedly the prime movers in the agitation to divide Otter Tail county and form the new county. The opposition centered at Otter Tail City and Clitherall, and E. E. Corliss was the chief spokesman for those opposed to the division. In fact, nearly all of the settlers east of range 41 opposed the division, among them being Marcus Shaw, county treasurer; William M. Corliss, clerk of the district court; Ole Jorgens, county auditor; William H. Beardsley, sheriff; S. A. Beardsley, county coroner, and E. E. Corliss, county attorney. This proposed new county embraced all of the then existing Otter Tail county west of the line dividing ranges 40 and 41, and, in addition, the six townships of range 44, then a part of unorganized Wilkin county, and later a part of Otter Tail county. The complete act follows:

"An act to establish the county of Holcomb and provide for its organization.

"Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Minnesota:

"Section 1—That so much territory of the counties of Otter Tail and Wilkin as is embraced in the following boundaries, be and the same is hereby established, as the county of Holcomb: Beginning at the southeast corner of township 131 north, of range 41 west, and running thence north along the range line between ranges 40 and 41, to the northeast corner of township 137, of range 41; thence west along the line between townships

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137 and 138, to the northwest corner of township 137, range 43; thence south along the range line between ranges 43 and 44, to the southwest corner of township 137, of range 43; thence west along the township line to the northwest corner of township 136, of range 44; thence south along the range line between ranges 44 and 45, to the southwest corner of township 131, of range 44; thence east along the township line between townships 130 and 131, to the place of beginning.

"Section 2—The name of the above included county shall be Holcomb, and the county seat of said county shall be at the village of Fergus Falls, on the northwest quarter of section 3, of township 132 north, of range 43 west.

"Section 3—At the time of giving notice of the next general election it shall be the duty of the officers in Otter Tail and Wilkins counties required by law to give notice of such general election, to give notice in like manner, that at said election a vote will be taken on the question establishing the county of Holcomb in accordance with the provisions of this act. At said election the voters in each of said counties in favor of establishing the county proposed in this act shall have distinctly written or printed on their ballots, 'For establishing the county of Holcomb,' and those opposed to the establishing of said proposed county, 'Against establishing the county of Holcomb.' The votes upon said question shall be canvassed in the same manner and returned to the same office by the judges of election of the several townships, as votes for county officers.

"Section 4—The county officers to whom the returns are made, in each of said counties, shall, within ten days after said election, canvass the votes returned for and against establishing the proposed county, and shall forthwith certify the result of such canvass to the governor, who, if it appears that a majority of the voters in said counties, present at said general election, and voting upon the question of establishing the county proposed in this act, shall have voted in favor thereof, shall make proclamation thereof by causing to be published in two daily newspapers in the city of St. Paul, that the establishing of said county of Holcomb proposed by this act has been ratified by a majority of the voters of said counties.

"Section 5—That in case the establishing of the county proposed by this act shall be ratified by the voters of said counties as herein provided, the governor shall appoint three qualified electors of said county of Holcomb as commissioners of said county, and the said commissioners shall, as soon as may be after their appointment, meet at the county seat and qualify, and enter upon the duties of their offices, and they shall hold their offices until the next general election occurring more than thirty days after their qualification and until their successors are elected and qualified.

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"Section 6—The county commissioners appointed and qualified according to the provisions of section five of this act, shall, at their first meeting, or at any meeting thereafter, appoint qualified persons to fill all the county offices in said county, except clerk of the district court, who shall be appointed by the judge of said court, which persons, so appointed and having qualified, shall hold their offices until the next general election occurring more than thirty days after their appointment, and until their successors are elected and qualified.

"Section 7—All acts and parts of acts inconsistent with this act be and the same are hereby repealed.

"Section 8—This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage. Approved, March 4, 1871."

Pursuant to this act, an election was held and the result in Otter Tail county showed a majority of one hundred and forty-nine against the establishment of the proposed county. The vote in the village of Fergus Falls showed two hundred and one for and only seven against the proposition.

While the vote in Wilkin county is not definitely known, it is certain that it voted by a large majority to detach range 44 from Wilkin county and make it a part of the proposed Holcomb county. However, the citizens of Otter Tail county who were anxious to make Fergus Falls a county seat were not to be denied as subsequent events were to prove.

THE TWO ACTS OF FEBRUARY 28, 1872.

(1) Proposing the removal of the county seat to Fergus Falls.

(2) Attaching range 44 to Otter Tail county.

The removal of the county seat from Otter Tail City to Fergus Falls by the legislative act of February 28, 1872, is largely due to the fact that it seemed certain at that time that a railroad would not pass through Otter Tail City. The Northern Pacific was built through the county and had missed the county seat by several miles, but still the Otter Tail City folks insisted that there was still a chance for them to get a railroad. They contended that the St. Vincent extension of the St. Paul & Pacific Railway must, under the terms of their land grant, go by way of Otter Tail City. However, any hopes they may have entertained in this direction were blasted when the Secretary of the Interior announced in January, 1872, that the road could comply with the terms of its grant if it built by way of Fergus Falls. This route would follow the provision in the grant which specified that the road was to be built through the county "At a point, at or near Otter Tail Lake," and that Fergus Falls was considered such a point.

Otter Tail county was represented in the lower house of the Legislature during the session of 1872 by Hon. E. E. Corliss, now the custodian of

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the state capitol. As soon as Mr. Corliss was convinced that Otter Tail City would not be reached by a railroad in the near future, he took a decisive step toward removing the county seat from Otter Tail City to Fergus Falls. In answer to an inquiry as to the steps in the removal, Mr. Corliss prepared the following statement:

"When it became known to me that the Secretary of the Interior had ruled that to build their road (that is the St. Paul & Pacific) via Fergus Falls complied with the terms of the grant, which was 'At a point, at or near Otter Tail Lake,' and that the company would build by Fergus Falls, then I went home from St. Paul to see what our friends in eastern Otter Tail and especially the persons above mentioned (referring to county officials) thought of the matter. When I laid the matter before them, all advised me to remove the county seat to Fergus Falls, which I did without ever speaking to George B. Wright, the owner of the townsite, or to anyone in Fergus Falls, or to anyone living nearer to it than Jorgens of Wall Lake. We, the former opponents of the division, would rather move the county seat to Fergus Falls than have the county divided. We knew we could not long hold the county seat at Otter Tail so far from any railroad." The Otter Tail City followers urged that the location of the ambitious village on the Red river was an altogether sufficient reason why the county seat should remain where it was. And it is very apparent that Corliss and his backers felt the sufficiency of the argument of the Otter Tail City advocates, as evidenced by the second act passed on the same day. Corliss conceived the idea of offsetting the argument of those opposed to Fergus Falls on the ground of its location by detaching a tier of townships from unorganized Wilkin county and attaching them to Otter Tail county. This move would, in a measure at least, refute the charge that the village was in the *extreme* western part of the county, while, at the same time, it would add a considerable population certain to vote in favor of the change of county seats.

Consequently, it appears that Mr. Corliss is not only responsible for the location of the county seat at Fergus Falls, but also for the attachment of range 44 to this county. The act providing for the removal of the county seat from Otter Tail City to Fergus Falls was as follows:

MOVING OF COUNTY SEAT TO FERGUS FALLS.

"Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Minnesota:

"Section 1—The county seat of Otter Tail county is hereby removed from Otter Tail City to the village of Fergus Falls, in said county, and the same is hereby located upon the northwest quarter of section 3, township 132, range 43, as hereinafter provided.

"Section 2—At the time of giving notice of the next general election, it shall be the duty of the officers in said county required by law, to give

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notice in like manner, that at said election the question will be submitted to the electors of said county, as to whether this law shall be adopted.

"Section 3—At said election, the electors of said county in favor of the adoption of this law, shall have distinctly written or printed, or partly written and partly printed on their ballots, 'For removal of the county seat.' Those opposed to such adoption, the words, 'Against the removal of the county seat.' Such votes shall be received and canvassed at the same time, in the same manner, and returned to the same officers by the judges of election as votes for county officers.

"Section 4—The county canvassing board of said county to whom the returns of election are made, shall canvass the returns upon said question in the same manner and at the same time as returns for county officers, and the abstracts thereof shall be made out on one sheet, and signed and certified in the same manner as in the case of abstract votes for said officers, and shall be deposited in the county auditor's office immediately thereafter and a copy thereof duly certified by the said auditor forwarded by him to the seeretary of state, and the governor shall thereupon forthwith, if this law is adopted, make proclamation to that effect in such manner as he may deem advisable, and within sixty days thereafter all the officers who are required by law to hold their offices at the county seat of said county shall remove to and hold their office at said village of Fergus Falls.

"Section 5—All acts and parts of acts inconsistent with this act are hereby repealed.

"Section 6—Section 1 of this act shall take effect and be in force from and after the ratification hereof as aforesaid, and the other sections of this act shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage. Approved, February 28, 1872."

The vote on the question of removal was submitted to the qualified voters of the county at the October, 1872, election and Fergus Falls was declared the county seat by a majority of one hundred and fifty-four. The November, 1872, session of the grand jury met in the new county seat, and in this connection an interesting incident is related by G. A. Lindquist, one of the oldest citizens of the county and now a resident of Fergus Falls. About a month before the November meeting of the grand jury, Lindquist, who had been drawn for service, received notice to appear at the county seat at Otter Tail on November 10, 1872, for the regular session of the grand jury. At the appointed time, he, with two others, appeared at Otter Tail City and were then informed that the county seat was no longer there, but that it had been just removed to Fergus Falls.

The other act of February 28, 1872, provided for the attachment of certain townships of range 44 to Otter Tail county. It follows:

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RANGE 44 ATTACHED TO OTTER TAIL COUNTY.

"An act to change the county lines of Otter Tail county: Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Minnesota:

"Section 1—Townships 131, 132, 133, 134, 135 and 136, in range 44 west, are hereby detached from the county of Wilkin and the same hereby attached to and made a part of Otter Tail county, as hereinafter provided.

"Section 2—At the time of giving notice of the next general election it shall be the duty of the officers in Otter Tail county whose duties are to give notice of general elections to give notice in like manner that at said election a vote will be taken upon the question as to whether this law shall take effect. At said election the voters in said county in favor of the adoption of this law shall have distinctly written or printed or partly written and partly printed upon their ballots, 'For change of county lines,' and those opposed to the provision of this act, 'Against the change of county lines.' The votes upon said question shall be canvassed in the same manner and returned to the same officer by the judges of election, as votes for county officers.

"Section 3—The county officer to whom the returns are made shall canvass the votes upon said question in the same manner and at the same time as votes for county officers, and shall forthwith certify the result of such canvass to the governor, who, if it appear that a majority of the legal voters in said county have voted in favor of said law, shall make proclamation thereof, as he may deem advisable.

"Section 4—All acts and parts of acts inconsistent with this act are hereby repealed.

"Section 5—Section one of this act shall take effect and be in force from and after the ratification thereof as aforesaid, and the other sections shall take effect and be in force from and after their passage. Approved, February 28, 1872."

The vote on the addition of these six townships has not been found, but it is certain that it carried and it is reasonable to presume that it carried by a large majority. There was no good reason why the people of the county should vote against a proposition to increase the limits of the county and especially in view of the fact that much of the territory was excellent farming land. Within a year three townships—Norwegian Grove, Trondhjem and Oscar—had been organized by the commissioners of Otter Tail county and if there was any suspicion that the attachment of six townships of range 44 was illegal or unconstitutional at the time no hint of it crept into the local papers.

Four and twenty years after the much discussed townships were atached to the county a singular circumstance arose. A man living in Oscar

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township actually defied the county to sell his land for taxes on the ground that he had never lived in Otter Tail county, that he was a resident of Wilkin county, and consequently not subject to the jurisdiction of the authorities of Otter Tail county. This case (State of Minnesota v. Lars O. Honerud, 66 Minn. 32, and also in 68 N. W. 323) attracted wide attention at the time it was in the courts and many counties of the state rested easier after the final decision of the supreme court of the state had been handed down on September 18, 1896.

This interesting case may be briefly summed up as follows: In the list of delinquent taxes of Otter Tail county for the year 1893, there was included certain land in section 6, township 134 north, range 44 west, belonging to Lars O. Honerud. In answer to the application for judgment against his land for the delinquent taxes, Honerud appeared in court and denied its jurisdiction on the ground that the land was not within the territorial limits of Otter Tail county, but was, forsooth, a part of Wilkin county. The district court found that the land was a part of Otter Tail county, ordered judgment for the taxes, and, upon the application of Honerud, certified the matter to the supreme court of the state. The decision of the supreme court covers eight pages and sustains the decision of the inferior court in all points. The supreme court held that Wilkin county was not organized in 1872, when the act was passed attaching part of its territory to Otter Tail county, and that, therefore, the Legislature had the right to act as it did. Furthermore, since the county of Wilkin was not organized it could not have voted on the question of the cession of the territory in question, a point which had been advanced by the attorneys for Honerud. The contention that the law of 1872 was unconstitutional because it was not submitted to the voters of Wilkin, falls to the ground when it is established that the said county was not organized. The lengthy decision closes by saying that "the law whereby townships 131 to 136, both inclusive, of range 44, were made a part of Otter Tail county, being valid, it follows that the defendant's (Honerud) land is subject to taxation in that county, and that the order for judgment for the taxes against it must be affirmed."

It must not be thought that this suit was backed by only one man, for it is certain that some citizens of Wilkin county were giving Honerud their moral if not financial support. Notwithstanding the lapse of more than twenty years, Honerud, or at least his attorneys, thought that there was a chance to prove unconstitutional this act of 1872, attaching part of range 44 to Otter Tail county. Honerud was a man of wealth and it was not through poverty that he allowed his taxes to become delinquent. Thus ended the last fight over the western limits of the county.

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ACT OF MARCH 10, 1873.

It was a bitter pill for Otter Tail City to swallow—this moving of the county seat from its quiet precincts to the bustling little hamlet of Fergus Falls. The saddest day the erstwhile county seat had ever known was the day when it was definitely announced that the grandeur of the little county seat was no more. But, like Fergus Falls in 1871, the deserted village was determined to assist in bringing about a division of the county. For the fifth successive year the Legislature was called upon to pass special legislation for Otter Tail county relative to a change in its territorial limits. This act of 1873 proposed to divide the county so that over one-third of the townships on the eastern side would be attached to Wadena county. These townships were Hobart, Gorman, Corliss, Butler, Paddock, Blowers, Homestead, Pine Lake, Perham, Rush Lake, Otto, Newton, Bluffton, Compton, Deer Creek, Leaf Lake, Henning, Inman, Oak Valley, Woodside, Elmo, Folden, Effington, Parkers Prairie and Eastern. The act of March 10, 1873, which, by the way, was the last act to pass the Legislature providing for the division of Otter Tail county, reads as follows:

LAST EFFORT TO DIVIDE OTTER TAIL COUNTY.

"An act to detach certain territory from the county of Otter Tail, and attach the same to the county of Wadena. Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Minnesota:

"Section 1—That all of that part and portion of the territory of the county of Otter Tail, as the same is now constituted, which lies east of range 39, and also townships 135, 136 and 137, of range 39, and township 137, of range 40, be and the same hereby is detached from the said county of Otter Tail and attached to the county of Wadena, and said above described territory shall hereafter form and be a part of said county of Wadena.

"Section 2—At the time of giving notice of the next general election it shall be the duty of the officers of the said counties of Otter Tail and Wadena, required by law to give notice of the general election, to give notice in like manner that at such election a vote will be taken on the question of detaching the territory mentioned and described in section one of this act from the said county of Otter Tail, and attaching the same to the county of Wadena. At said election the legal voters in each and both of said counties in favor of detaching said territory from the said county of Otter Tail and attaching the same to said county of Wadena, shall have distinctly written, or printed, or partly written and partly printed, on their ballots the words, 'In favor of detaching all of that part and portion of the territory of the county of Otter Tail, as the same is now constituted, which lies east of range 39, and also townships 135, 136 and 137, of range 39, and township

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137, of range 39, and township 137, of range 40, and attaching the same to the county of Wadena;" and those opposed to the detaching of said territory from the said county of Otter Tail and attaching the same to the said county of Wadena, shall have distinctly written or printed, or partly written and partly printed, on their ballots the words, "Against detaching that part and portion of the territory of the county of Otter Tail, as the same is now constituted, which lies east of range 39, and also townships 135, 136 and 137, of range 39, and township 137, of range 40, and attaching the same to Wadena county.

"Section 3—The county officers to whom the returns are made, in each and both of said counties, shall within ten days after said election, canvass the votes returned for and against the detaching of said territory from the said county of Otter Tail and attaching the same to the said county of Wadena, and shall forthwith certify the result of such canvass to the governor, who, if it appears that a majority of all the voters in said counties, and each of them shall have voted in favor thereof, shall make proclamation thereof by causing to be published in two daily papers in the city of St. Paul, in this state, that the detaching of the said territory from the said county of Otter Tail and attaching the same to the said county of Wadena, proposed by this act, has been ratified by a majority of the voters of each and both of said counties.

"Section 4—This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage. Approved March 10, 1873."

Pursuant to the provisions of this act, the officers of the two counties issued a call for an election to be held on November 4, 1873. For a second time Otter Tail county voted to retain its existing limits and the vote of sixty-four for to eight hundred and forty-nine against is proof that a majority of the voters cherished no resentment against Fergus Falls because of the county-seat fight the previous year.

SUBSEQUENT PROPOSED ACTS OF DIVISION.

For forty-two years Otter Tail county has retained the limits which it acquired as a result of the act of February 28, 1872. Regarding territorial divisions within the county as it now stands, much might be said. Like the persecuted Christians of the Middle Ages, frequent threats have been made by murderously inclined people to have this fair county placed on the rack and drawn and quartered. But the outlook for such a change is very dubious and there appears to be no chance in the immediate future for those who are clamoring for a division in the county.

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OTTER TAIL CITY IN 1858.

The above sketch of Otter Tail City is a photographic reproduction of a cut which appeared in *Harper's Magazine* in 1860 (Vol. 22), and represents the first county seat of Otter Tail county as it appeared in the summer of 1858. During the summer of that year a party of American tourists were making an excursion from St. Paul to and beyond Pembina and Winnipeg, the latter city then being known as Fort Garry. Manton Marble, an accomplished and celebrated journalist of New York, accompanied the expedition and wrote up an interesting and instructive description of the trip, which was later published in *Harper's Magazine*. On their return trip the exploring party went through Otter Tail City, which had been designated as the county seat of Otter Tail county by the legislative act of March 18, 1858. Mr. Marble made a sketch of Otter Tail City the day the party stopped there and, although he made but brief mention of the place in his article, yet his pen-and-ink drawing is a faithful and life-like reproduction of the village as it actually existed at the time.

The five houses represented in the illustration were all log structures, but the identity of only one is definitely established. The building at the extreme right was the dwelling house and trading post of Donald McDonald, a Minnesota pioneer, who was one of the very few white men who remained in the county during the Civil War. Some settlers who located there after the war, even as late as 1870, say that these same five houses were then standing. C. D. Wright, who, as surveyor for the Northern Pacific, was there in 1869 and 1870, says that the house of Peake was the only one then standing. The village stood at the extreme eastern end of Otter Tail lake, immediately south of where the Red river entered the lake (sections 10 and 15). When the county seat was removed from here to Fergus Falls the village soon became depopulated, and today the site of the once flourishing trading center and seat of justice is a field of waving wheat.

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POPULATION STATISTICS.

Otter Tail county first appears in the United States census in 1860, at which time it was credited with a population of two hundred forty. The county had been organized just about two years at that time and this sparse population was grouped largely around two places, Otter Tail City and Waseata, the latter place being more commonly known as Dayton Hollow. In a separate chapter, "Otter Tail County in 1860," there appears a detailed account of the 1860 census. History fails to record what became of the great mass of the inhabitants listed in 1860, but it is a certainty that practically all of them disappeared in the fall of 1862. From 1862 to 1866, or probably the year previous, the county was nearly depopulated, as far as white residents were concerned. With the close of the Civil War and the prospect of a railroad running through the county, immigration and settlement became very active. In fact, during the five years (1865-70) there were nearly two thousand people who located in the county, the census of 1870 returning one thousand nine hundred sixty-eight.

It is provided by statute in Minnesota that a census be taken by the state every decade, midway between the decennial census of the federal government. This has been done every year since 1875 in Otter Tail county, with the exception of 1915, when the state Legislature refused to make the appropriation for the census. The census of 1875 showed only thirty organized townships in the county, although there were congressional townships with a separate census return, the total population being 1,968. It is interesting to note in this census the way in which the people were scattered over the county forty years ago. Otter Tail township had lost the county seat three years previously and Otter Tail City and the township together returned a population of only seventy. It was one of the smallest townships in the county in point of population, only two others, Deer Creek (47) and Friberg (64), having fewer people within their limits. Parkers Prairie, with 653 inhabitants, was the most densely populated township in the county, followed closely by St. Olaf with 572, Tordenskjold with 536, Clitherall with 515 and Perham with 502. These are the only townships in the county with a population of more than 500. The village of Fergus Falls had a population of 565, while Fergus Falls township had a population of 122. Fergus Falls was the only village with a separate return.

The census also showed settlers living in unorganized townships: Bluffton, Compton and Oak Valley, 133; Carlisle, 56; Carliss, 25; Newton (then called New York Mills), 64. Maplewood township, so named, but unorganized, was returned with Erhards Grove. The names of the census enumerators of 1875 are given in the following table, some of whom are still living in the county. The figures and names of the enumerators were taken from the original records in the county auditor's office. The census follows:

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Townships.	Population.	Census Enumerators.
Aastad	118	Nils Thompson
Aurdal	287	Ashley Torgenson
Buse	234	M. P. Burrows
Clitherall	515	C. Crogan
Dane Prairie	287	O. Engebretson
Deer Creek	47	J. I. Sanford
Eagle Lake	335	Carl Torgenson
Effington	127	Jacob Huttemen
Elizabeth	378	Louis Candeaux
Erhards Grove	275	Peter Davis
Fergus Falls	122	M. Halvorsen
Friberg	64	Fred Schmidt
Gorman	168	Soren Rasmusen
Hobart	104	A. S. Wimer
Leaf Mountain	159	P. Knorl
Maine	162	G. J. Secoy
Fergus Falls village	565	G. L. Nichols
Nirados	186	Ole Johnson
Norwegian Grove	358	T. P. Scottlar
Oscar	448	Casper Lein
Otter Tail	70	George Matthews
Parkers Prairie	653	Lewis Erikson
Pelican	306	A. Levorsen
Perham	502	H. Von Holden
Rush Lake	263	Anthony Bender
Saint Olaf	572	Justus Miller
Scambler	259	S. T. Rider
Tordenskjold	536	J. C. Clemmons
Trondhjem	407	Thorsten Nilson
Tumuli	267	Toleff Nelson
Western	133	E. Robins

The population of the county by five-year periods and decades since 1870: 1870, 1,968; 1875, 9,174; 1880, 18,675; 1885, 31,520; 1890, 34,232; 1895, 39,453; 1900, 45,375; 1905, 48,229; 1910, 46,036.

The tabulated census returns for 1890, 1900 and 1910 are given in the following table:

POPULATION OF OTTER TAIL COUNTY.

	1910	1900	1890
Aastad township	503	528	486
Amor township	350	427	361
Aurdal township	689	345	787
Battle Lake village	567	420	---
Blowers township	442	441	216
Bluffton township, including Bluffton village	691	686	333
Bluffton village	148	---	---
Buse township	400	437	333
Butler township	362	259	179
Candor township	367	375	300
Carlisle township	333	417	288
Clitherall township	499	645	831

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	1910	1900	1890
Clitherall village	187	167	---
Compton township	711	779	694
Corliss township	493	558	284
Dalton village	175	---	---
Dane Prairie township	646	600	525
Dead Lake township	418	391	---
Deer Creek township	658	510	474
Deer Creek village	313	275	---
Dent village	244	---	---
Dora township	507	550	433
Dunn township	375	319	252
Eagle Lake township	682	721	692
Eastern township	522	548	385
Edna township	521	451	411
Effington township	652	711	655
Elizabeth township	598	718	744
Elizabeth village	169	186	135
Elmo township	504	568	403
Erhards Grove township	679	759	686
Everts township	360	369	366
Fergus Falls city	6,887	6,072	3,772
Ward 1	1,379	---	---
Ward 2	1,202	---	---
Ward 3	3,386	---	---
Ward 4	920	---	---
Fergus Falls township	568	635	479
Folden township	552	545	435
Friberg township	554	736	574
Girard township	250	263	193
Gorman township, including Luce village	466	533	562
Luce village	139	---	---
Henning township	527	632	466
Henning village	603	545	254
Hobart township	501	531	449
Homestead township	381	426	174
Inman township	471	564	292
Leaf Lake township	694	713	640
Leaf Mountain township	670	716	623
Lida township	412	428	321
Maine township	620	701	510
Maplewood township	649	739	436
New York village	474	353	260
Newton township	972	726	353
Nidaros township	494	717	684
Norwegian Grove township	642	676	744
Oak Valley township	512	515	357
Orwell township	371	334	191
Oscar township	645	713	742
Otter Tail township	200	283	226
Ottertail village	176	---	---
Otto township	522	557	456
Paddock township	563	495	317

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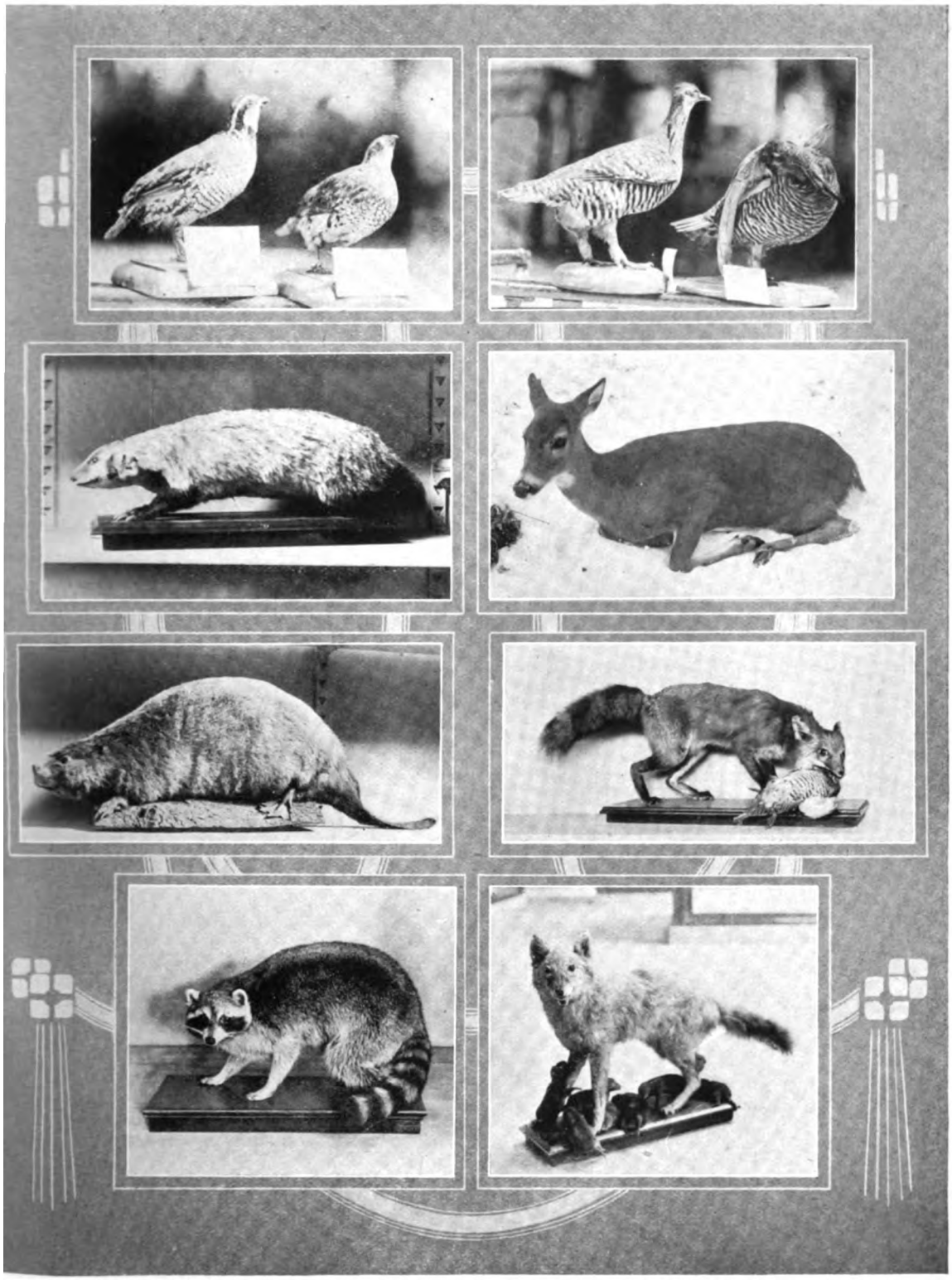

Bob-white.
American Badger.
Canadian Beaver.
Raccoon.

Prairie Chicken.
Deer.
Red Fox, with Prairie Chicken.
Gray (Timber) Wolf, with Cubs.

WILD ANIMALS AND BIRDS OF THE NORTHWEST.

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	1910	1900	1890
Parkers Prairie township	595	677	643
Parkers Prairie village	383	---	---
Pelican township, including Pelican Rapids village	1,781	669	629
Pelican Rapids village	1,019	1033	624
Perham township	589	676	637
Perham village	1,376	1,182	761
Pine Lake township	334	351	233
Rushville village	255	---	---
Rush Lake township	441	419	341
St. Olaf township	556	711	681
Scambler township	428	470	445
Star Lake township	281	339	150
Sverdrup township	974	1,019	680
Tordenskjold township	755	791	624
Trondhjem township	584	699	794
Tumuli township	479	614	615
Vergas village	237	---	---
Vining village	212	---	---
Western township	355	375	273
Woodside township	428	542	329
	46,036	45,375	34,232

PLATTED SITES OF OTTER TAIL COUNTY

	Sec.	T.	R.	Township.
Amora	17	132	37	Elmo
Altoona (Vergas) (Inc.)	25	137	41	Candor
Balmoral	31	134	39	Otter Tail
Battle Lake (Inc.)	4	132	40	Clitherall
Beauty Shore		133	39	Girard
Bluffton (Inc.)	33	135	36	Bluffton
Boardman	7	135	37	Newton
Camp Nidaros	12	134	40	Amor
Carlisle	2	133	44	Carlisle
Clear View	1	137	43	Scambler
Clitherall (Inc.)	6	132	39	Nidaros
Dalton (Inc.)	11	131	42	Tumuli
Deer Creek (Inc.)	26	134	37	Deer Creek
Dent (Inc.)	34	136	40	Edna
Dopelius	25	135	37	Newton
Elizabeth (Inc.)	31	134	43	Elizabeth
Elmwood	34	137	41	Candor
Erhard	28	135	43	Erhards Grove
Fergus Falls (Inc.)		133	43	Fergus Falls and Buse
Fox Park	4	132	39	Nidaros
Grand View Heights	7	136	38	Pine Lake
Henning (Inc.)	22	133	36	Henning
Hobart	2	137	40	Hobart
Idlewood	4	132	39	Nidaros
Inglewood	1	133	40	Everts
Kilarney Beach	4	137	42	Dunn
Lake Mason	15	134	43	Elizabeth

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Leafside	25	134	38	Leaf Lake
Luce (Inc.)	30	137	39	Gorman
Midland Beach	2	137	42	Dunn
Mill Park	31	132	43	Aurdal
New York Mills (Inc.)	8	135	37	Newton
Nirvana	34	133	39	Girard
Otter Tail City (Inc.)	10	134	39	Otter Tail
Parkdale	3	131	42	Tumuli
Parker's Prairie (Inc.)	22	131	37	Parkers Prairie
Pelican Rapids (Inc.)	27	136	43	Pelican
Perham (Inc.)	14	136	39	Perham
Provan Beach	9	137	42	Dunn
Richdale	33	136	38	Pine Lake
Richland	33	136	38	Pine Lake
Richville (Inc.)	17	135	39	Rush Lake
Stuart Lake Park	33	133	39	Girard
Sunlight Hills	3	137	42	Dunn
Sunnyside	1	132	39	Nidaros
Underwood (Inc.)	32	133	41	Sverdrup
Vining (Inc.)	12	132	39	Nidaros
Wall Lake Point	4	132	42	Dane Prairie
Wimer Lake Resort	3	137	40	Hobart
Yaquina	17	135	40	Dead Lake

FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF OTTER TAIL COUNTY FOR YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 1915.

	Debits	Credits
County treasurer	$ 676,004.93	$ 498,059.45
Warrants accounts	498,059.45	504,999.06
Taxes and penalties	401,695.22	412,143.28
Current school fund	25,136.61	27,950.34
County revenue	48,381.88	104,040.76
Poor fund		41.67
Road and bridge fund	28,578.74	47,795.68
Ditch funds	11,359.71	30,271.62
Redemption fund	5,746.27	6,083.89
School fund (districts)	174,804.96	203,627.20
Town, city and village	117,326.18	124,526.35
Incidental fund	349.74	810.98
State revenue and school	61,383.32	62,189.21
State lands and interest	22,132.04	26,006.20
State loans	15,011.59	21,299.68
Sinking fund	931.82	13,815.10
Surplus fund		1,973.82
Refunding	227.06	227.06
Poor farm	2,893.80	3,024.29
Inheritance tax	367.68	368.36
Suspense account	15.41	80.71
Mortgage registry tax	4,835.43	5,331.88
Assurance fund		7.48
Tuberculosis sanatorium	13,196.10	13,762.97
Totals	$2,108,437.04	$2,108,437.04

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Otter Tail county is not only out of debt, but at the end of the fiscal year (September 30, 1915) had a credit of $177,944.48.

NATURALIZED CITIZENS OF OTTER TAIL COUNTY.

It is hard to determine who was the first naturalized person in Otter Tail county. Andrew Peterson is the first name recorded on the records for the first naturalization papers. This was in the year 1870, but no month or day was given. The second name recorded is that of Jens Severin Jacobsen, October 3, 1870, but the name of A. B. Larson appears farther down as recorded May 30, of the same year. These men were natives of Sweden and Norway. There are one hundred and seventy-seven names recorded in the first records for first naturalization papers. Of this number twenty-one were natives of England, thirty-three of Germany, twenty-five of Sweden, ninety-two of Norway, five of Denmark and one each from Switzerland and Canada.

The first name given in the second book of first naturalization papers is that of Edward L. Asnes, whose papers were taken out at the November term of court, 1874, dated November 17, and attested by Hans Jensen and Ole Estensen. During the November term of court of this year there were one hundred first naturalization papers issued. Of this number eighty-two came from Norway and Sweden, eight came from Denmark, four from England and one each from France and Prussia. At the November term of court, 1875, there were two hundred and twenty first naturalization papers issued; one hundred sixty-nine of these were from Norway and Sweden, nineteen from Prussia, sixteen from Denmark, five from England, three from Germany and seven gave no native country. From 1874 to 1881 there were nine hundred and twenty-four first naturalization papers issued; from 1881 to 1886 there were seventeen hundred and eighteen papers issued; from 1886 to 1896, fifteen hundred and ninety-six papers, and from 1896 to 1906 there were but five hundred and fifty-two papers issued. This makes a total of four thousand seven hundred and ten first naturalization papers issued from November 24, 1874, until September 26, 1906. At this latter date the new naturalization laws came into effect, and since that time there have been only two hundred and six first naturalization papers issued.

It is found that the greatest number of first naturalization papers were taken out just before the elections. The reason for this is simple. A candidate could get the blank first naturalization papers and have the different non-naturalized citizens to sign them and he then would pay for their filing in order to acquire their vote. Many times the second or final naturalization papers were never taken out, as shown by the following statistics. From 1874 until 1906 there were only four thousand two hundred second naturalization papers taken out. This is five hundred less than the number of first

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naturalization papers. It is certain that Erik Braaten, of Norway, was the first man to take out the second or final naturalization papers and become a citizen of the United States in Otter Tail county. The date for these papers was November 18, 1874. Ole Anderson, also of Norway, is accorded the honor of being the second man in Otter Tail county to become a citizen of the United States. His paper is dated November 24, 1874.

In 1906 the naturalization laws became much more strict, and from 1906 until 1914, when the present law became operative, new restrictions were placed on the man desiring to become a citizen of the United States. The acts of June 29, 1906, with subsequent amendments, state that an alien may be admitted to citizenship in the following manner and not otherwise:

Section 4. First, He shall declare on oath before the clerk of any court authorized by this act to naturalize aliens, or his authorized deputy, in the district in which such alien resides, two years at least prior to his admission, and after he has reached the age of eighteen years, that it is bona fide his intention to become a citizen of the United States, and to renounce forever all allegiance and fidelity to any foreign prince, potentate, state or sovereignty, and particularly, by name, to the prince, potentate, state, or sovereignty of which the alien may be at the time a citizen or subject. And such declaration shall set forth the name, age, occupation, personal description, place of birth, last foreign residence and allegiance, the date of arrival, the name of the vessel, if any, in which he came to the United States, and the present place of residence in the United States of said alien; Provided, however, that no alien who, in conformity with the law in force at the date of his declaration, has declared his intention to become a citizen of the United States shall be required to renew such declaration.

Second. Not less than two years nor more than seven years after he has made such declaration of intention he shall make and file, in duplicate, a petition in writing, signed by the applicant in his own hand-writing and duly verified, in which petition such applicant shall state his full name, his place of residence (by street and number, if possible) his occupation, and, if possible, the date and place of birth; the place from which he emigrated, and the date and place of his arrival in the United States, and, if he entered through a port, the name of the vessel on which he arrived; the time when and the place and name of the court he declared his intention to become a citizen of the United States; if he is married he shall state the name of his wife, and, if possible, the country of her nativity and her place of residence at the time of filing his petition; and if he has children, the name, date and place of birth and place of residence of each child living at the time of the filing of his petition; Provided, That if he has filed his declaration before the passage of this act he shall not be required to sign the petition in his own handwriting.

The petition shall set forth that he is not a disbeliever in or opposed to organized government, or a member of or affiliated with any organization or body of persons teaching disbelief in or opposed to organized government, a polygamist or believer in the practice of polygamy, and that it is his intention to become a citizen of the United States and to renounce absolutely and forever all allegiance and fidelity to any foreign prince, potentate, state, or sovereignty, and particularly by name to the prince, potentate, state, or sovereignty of which he at the time of filing of his petition may be a citizen or subject, and that it is his intention to reside permanently within the United States, and whether or not he has been denied admission as a citizen of the United States, and, if denied, the ground or grounds of such denial, the court or courts in which such decision is rendered and that the cause for such denial has since been cured or removed, and

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every fact material to his naturalization and required to be proved upon the final hearing of his application.

The petition shall also be verified by the affidavit of at least two creditable witnesses, who are citizens of the United States, and who shall state in their affidavits that they have personally known the applicant to be a resident of the United States for a period of at least five years continuously, and of the state, territory, or district in which the application is made for a period of at least one year immediately preceding the date of the filing of his petition and that they each have personal knowledge that the petitioner is a person of good moral character, and that he is in every way qualified, in their opinion, to be admitted as a citizen of the United States.

At the time of filing his petition there shall be filed with the clerk of the court a certificate from the department of labor, if the petitioner arrives in the United States after the passage of this act, stating the date, place, and manner of his arrival in the United States and the declaration of intention of such petitioner, which certificate and declaration shall be attached to and made a part of said petition.

Third. He shall, before he is admitted to citizenship, declare on oath in open court that he will support the Constitution of the United States, and that he absolutely and entirely renounces and abjures all allegiance and fidelity to any foreign prince, potentate, state, or sovereignty, and particularly by name to the prince, potentate, state, or sovereignty, of which he was before a citizen or subject; that he will support and defend the Constitution and laws of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic, and bear true faith and allegiance to the same.

Fourth. It shall be made to appear to the satisfaction of the court admitting any alien to citizenship that immediately preceding the date of his application he has resided continuously within the United States five years at least, and within the state or territory where such court is at the time held one year at least, and that during that time he has behaved as a man of good moral character, attached to the principles of the Constitution of the United States, and well disposed to the good order and happiness of the same. In addition to the oath of the applicant, the testimony of at least two witnesses, citizens of the United States, as to the facts of residence, moral character, and attachment to the principles of the Constitution shall be required and the name, place of residence, and occupation of each witness shall be set forth in the record.

Fifth. In case the alien applying to be admitted to citizenship has borne any hereditary title, or has been of any of the orders of nobility in the kingdom or state from which he came, he shall, in addition to the above requisites, make an express renunciation of his title or orders of nobility in the court to which his application is made, and his renunciation shall be recorded in the court.

These are the main points in the present naturalization laws, although there are thirty-one sections dealing with every minor phase of the question of naturalization. There are also model "declaration of intention" and "petition for naturalization" blanks to be used by the applicant.

BIRTHS AND DEATHS IN OTTER TAIL COUNTY

The law in Minnesota requires the registration of all births and deaths. The Legislature, by the act of April 18, 1911, provided for the indexing of all births and deaths in each county in the state by the clerks of the district court. This work in Otter Tail county was done by George H. Gard, the clerk of the district court, and the results of his labors are found in three massive volumes. According to his figures, there were born in this county in the period from 1871 to 1910, inclusive, 35,641 persons, while during the

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same period there were only 13,101 deaths. The following table shows at a glance the vital statistics from 1871 to the present time:

Years.	Births	Deaths
1871-1910	35,641	13,101
1911	1,072	619
1912	1,112	593
1913	1,141	645
1914	1,178	652
Totals	40,144	15,610

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CHAPTER V.

COUNTY BUILDINGS.

COURT HOUSES OF OTTER TAIL COUNTY.

A study of the official records of Otter Tail county reveals the fact that a part of the present court house was the first building erected by the county as a court house, and that the county had then been in existence for thirteen years. Starting on its career with the first meeting of the commissioners on September 12, 1868, the county seat itself shifted from Clitherall to Tordenskjold, from there to Otter Tail City, and finally to Fergus Falls, where it was located as a result of an act of the Legislature and a subsequent election.

For the first few years there was so little official business that a court house was not an actual necessity and when, as old residents say, the county seat was moved from Otter Tail City to Fergus Falls in the fall of 1872 and all of the county effects were hauled overland in a wagon, it may be seen that there was no crying need for a county building. The early officials kept their offices in their homes and even after the seat of justice was moved to Fergus Falls, frequent references are made in the commissioners' records to the payment of sums for the carrying of election returns to O. Jorgens, "at his home at Wall Lake." Early settlers still living (and G. O. Dahl is one of them) aver that Jorgens, who was the county auditor, carried his office records around with him wherever he went. Some dozen books contained all the official business of the county up until the spring of 1871. Before that time all of the records in the register of deeds' office were kept at the county seat of Douglas county; neither was the district court yet meeting in the county.

Although the legislative act of 1858 and the one of a decade later had designated Otter Tail City as the county seat, yet when the commissioners first met in the fall of 1868, they did not meet at that place. Instead, they foregathered at Clitherall, the home of Marcus Shaw, one of the commissioners, and the center of the greatest part of the county's population. S. J. Whiting, the auditor appointed by the tsate, as well as Chancey Whiting, the other commissioner, were both residents of Clitherall. The county commissioners continued to meet at Clitherall until March, 1870, holding in all eleven meetings at that place. In only one of these meetings is any mention made of an office building of any kind; on January 4, 1870, the record says that the commissioners met "at the auditor's office in Clitherall." If

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the county seat it to be considered the place where the official business of the county is transacted, then Clitherall must be accorded the honor of being the first county seat of Otter Tail county. On the other hand there is no evidence to show that the village was ever recognized by the Legislature or any act of the commissioners as the seat of justice.

The Legislature of 1870 was induced by some patriotic citizen from Otter Tail county to pass an act establishing the county seat at Tordenskjold, and the act of February 28, 1870, fully accounts for the meeting of the commissioners at Tordenskjold on April 29, 1870. But the honor thus thrust upon the embryonic village of Tordenskjold was to last for only one year. The succeeding Legislature rescinded this act on the ground that it did not provide for the people of the county to vote on the question. The act of 1871 further stated that the county was to be re-established at Otter Tail City. However, while Tordenskjold was reveling in its glory as a county seat, the commissioners ordered a court house and jail built in the place, and, although the resolution ordering the erection of the buildings was not rescinded, yet no steps were taken looking toward carrying it into effect.

Eight meetings were held by the county commissioners at Tordenskjold, and in the meeting held on October 18, 1870, it is apparent that they felt that the county seat was to remain permanently at this place. No further proof of this statement is needed than that furnished by their own record—to quote:

"A resolution offered by A. Johnson to build a court house at the county seat, Tordenskjold, for the sum of one thousand dollars, to be built in the months of December, 1870, and January, February, March, April and May, 1871, and that A. Johnson be authorized to receive bids from any person desiring to build said house, and make contract with said person between the 9th and 15th of November, 1870. The size of said house shall be thirty feet by twenty-four and ten feet from floor to floor. And a jail built of large oak logs, floor, roof and walls, and eighteen feet by twelve feet. All together the cost shall not be more than $1,000. This above resolution was adopted by a majority of the board of county commissioners of Otter Tail county. Adopted October 18, 1870."

This extract from the commissioners' records is interesting from at least two different standpoints. In the first place it shows that the board considered Tordenskjold the county seat, and, furthermore, that it was to remain so for an indefinite period. In the second place, it contains the first mention of either a court house or jail, and although the resolution just quoted was never carried into effect, it shows that the commissioners felt the need of such buildings. It is probable that various places were used for the county offices, but the records show but one bill for office rent while the

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county seat was in Tordenskjold. Ole Ihlseng was paid eight dollars on March 14, 1871, "for furnishing house or room for commissioners' meetings."

As has been stated, the county seat was permanently located at Otter Tail City by the act of February 16, 1871, and the commissioners held their first meeting there on March 14, 1871. The new county seat had been platted as a village as early as January, 1869, and was the first village platted in the county. At the time the seat of justice was moved to Otter Tail City, the Northern Pacific railroad was surveying its right of way through the county and the village was on one of the projected rights of way. Here comes the one little incident which has changed the whole course of Otter Tail county history.

Everyone admits that if the railroad had been built through Otter Tail City it would be the county seat today. As it finally turned out, the railroad was built through the county, but about twelve miles northeast of the village. And why was this done? Why, when the construction camps, tools, etc., were actually in the village and the company ready to begin work on the proposed road, did the company suddenly decide to withdraw from the county seat and run its line several miles to the northeast? The answer to this question is summed up in two words—Thomas Cathcart.

Thomas Cathcart was the proprietor of Otter Tail City, a man of considerable ability along some lines, but, unfortunately for the future of his townsite, he obstinately refused to give a right of way through his land and no amount of urging on the part of his fellow citizens could induce him to yield. The railroad company became disgusted and, as a result, changed their plans and built the road through the county as it appears today. As soon as it was seen that the railroad was to miss the county seat, the hundreds of people attracted to the pretty little village on the shores of the lake began to leave. Within a few months the once thriving village was a scene of desolation and, to add to its cup of woe, the Legislature, in the spring of 1872, passed an act establishing the county seat at Fergus Falls. The latter village was to have a railroad and, furthermore, was nearer to the center of population of the county than Otter Tail City. The county voted on the removal of the county seat in the fall of 1872 and the result was a death-blow to Otter Tail City.

During the period of less than two years that the county seat remained at Otter Tail City no effort was made to build a court house, although a log jail was built in the village during this time. Michael Anderson, the sheriff, lived in the village and rented part of his house to the county, as indicated by two orders of six and fifteen dollars, respectively, which were granted him by the commissioners. Marcus Shaw, the treasurer, was paid twenty-four dollars on September 6, 1871, for office rent of the clerk and treasurer.

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Some time during the summer of 1871 a part of a building belonging to E. G. Holmes, a merchant of the village, was rented for county purposes. The commissioners entered into an agreement with Holmes to rent his building and entered the following minute on their records apropos of this agreement:

"*Abstract of lease of Court House*:

"Otter Tail county shall have use of all the building which is at this date occupied as court house and have uninterrupted right to use it as offices for county officers or in any way as the county commissioners may direct from the 25th of November, 1871, until November 25, 1872, for three hundred dollars and the rent shall be paid quarterly in advance and the county commissioners shall have right to use said house for the same purposes the next two succeeding years for two hundred and fifty dollars per year if they choose to do so. Witness: O. Jorgens. January 6, 1872."

With the expiration of the first year's lease on November 25, 1872, the county notified Holmes that they had no further use for his building. It was known by this time that the county seat was to be moved to Fergus Falls. The history of this removal is told in the chapter on the Organization of Otter Tail County. It is interesting to note that Marcus Shaw presented a bill at the January, 1873, session of the commissioners "for moving three offices from Otter Tail City to Fergus Falls," asking seventy-six dollars for such service. He does not state in his bill what the three offices were, but it is likely that they were those of clerk, treasurer and register of deeds. The auditor, O. Jorgens, kept his office at his home in Wall Lake.

One of the inducements which led the county to vote in favor of Fergus Falls was a gift of an entire block of land for county purposes by George B. Wright and Richard J. Mendenhall. Not only did these patriotic citizens donate all of block 37, but they also offered the county the use of a building for county purposes, free of charge, for one year from January 1, 1873. This offer of a lot and house was made and accepted by the commissioners on January 7, 1873, although it was more than a year before the county got an undisputed title to the block in question. The formal proposal of Wright and Mendenhall to donate block 37 to the county is recorded in the session of July 5, 1873, and reads as follows:

"We hereby propose to give to the county of Otter Tail a warranty deed conveying in fee simple the whole of block 37 in Fergus Falls free of cost, provided that in case the county seat of said county shall be removed from Fergus Falls within eight years from this date, and that within that time the county shall not have erected permanent county buildings and improvement at a cost of not less than $10,000 (Ten Thousand Dollars) on said tract: That we shall have the right to repurchase and to obtain from

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the county a good title to said block, on payment of the value of the improvements thereon, which value shall be determined by appraisers, one of the appraisers to be selected by us or our representatives, one by the county of Otter Tail, and the two thus chosen, if unable to agree, to select a third, and the award of any two of said appraisers to be final."

This proposal of Wright and Mendenhall was accepted by the commissioners and recorded as follows:

"Resolved, that we, the board of county commissioners of the county of Otter Tail, accept the within proposal of George B. Wright and Mendenhall by the understanding that the title of the within mentioned block shall vest in the county of Otter Tail in the state of Minnesota, permanently after the expiration of eight years from this date if the county seat for said county shall not be removed from the present designated place and sooner if the said county of Otter Tail shall by its legal authorities erect county buildings including all kinds of improvement to the value of $10,000 on said blocks 37 in the village of Fergus Falls. This above resolution passed by the board of county commissioners this 7th day of July, 1873."

But this resolution just quoted did not settle the matter, since the board, at its September session, passed another resolution in which they specifically say that "we do not accept the deed from Wright and Mendenhall to block 37 for the reason of its defect." At this same session (September 9, 1873) the board rescinded its action of the 7th of the preceding month accepting the proposal of these two men. It was not until nine months later that the county finally became the undisputed owner of block 37. On June 3, 1874, the commissioners definitely accepted the proposal of Wright and Mendenhall and from that date the county has had undisputed possession of the block on which the present court house and jail are located.

Before the county had secured possession of the block on which the present court house and jail are standing they entered into an agreement with August Nordonmalm for the purchase of lot 3, block 33, in the village of Fergus Falls. The board agreed to pay six hundred dollars for the lot, three hundred dollars on the delivery of the deed and the remainder on June 1, 1874. This lot, which is now vacant, is on Bismark street, immediately west of the Park hotel. At that time there was a story-and-a-half frame building on it and it was this building, long since torn down, which was used as a court house from the fall of 1873 until October 15, 1878. On that date the county began to pay rent for the Goodsell building on Lincoln street, occupying the latter until they moved into the present court house. The county sold lot 3, block 33, on July 25, 1881, to J. P. Williams for the sum of eight hundred dollars. It might be stated here that the log jail which was moved from Otter Tail City stood on the rear of this lot and

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not on block 37, where it was ordered placed according to the resolution of the commissioners on January 3, 1873.

THE PRESENT COURT HOUSE.

The initial step in the erection of the present court house in Otter Tail county was taken by the county commissioners on January 5, 1877. On that day it was "Resolved by the board of county commissioners that the county auditor, county treasurer and county register of deeds be appointed a committee to procure and submit a plan for court house and jail and the probable cost of the same and report at the next meeting of this board. Adopted January 5, 1877."

The cause of this resolution lay in the fact that the building on lot 3, block 33, which had been used for a court house since the fall of 1873, was now in such a dilapidated condition that it was absolutely necessary either to build or secure new quarters.

It takes money to build court houses and as events turned out, it seems that the commissioners did not fully consider how they were going to finance the proposed building. They asked the Legislature for permission to bond the county to the amount of six thousand dollars and the Legislature granted their request in the act of February 15, 1877. The act follows:

"An act to authorize the county commissioners of Otter Tail county to issue bonds for the purpose of erecting county buildings, approved February 15, 1877.

"Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Minnesota:

"Section 1—The county commissioners of the county of Otter Tail are hereby authorized to issue bonds of said county to an amount not exceeding six thousand dollars for the purpose of erecting county buildings at the county seat of said county, as the same may be fixed by law, which bonds may be in such denominations as may be determined by said commissioners, and shall be signed by the chairman of the board of county commissioners, and countersigned by the county auditor of said county, and shall bear interest at a rate not exceeding ten per cent. per annum, payable semi-annually.

"Section 2—The principal of said bonds shall be made payable at such times, not less than three nor more than ten years from and after the date of issue thereof, as may be determined by said commissioners, but no more than two thousand dollars of such principal shall be made payable in any one year, and the issue of such bonds shall bind said county to the payment of the principal and interest thereof, according to the tenor of said bonds; and the said commissioners are hereby authorized to and they shall annually levy a tax upon the taxable property of said county, over and above all other taxes required by law to be levied, sufficient to meet such payments.

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"Section 3—The said bonds shall not be sold or disposed of at less than their par value, and the proceeds thereof shall be used solely for the purpose of erecting county buildings in said county."

However, for various reasons, mostly financial, it was decided not to build at this time, but to rent another building. It was more than a year later (September 20, 1878) before the county took any action one way or the other. On that date it was decided not to build, but to rent, as is evidenced by the following minute in the commissioners' record of that date:

"Resolved by the board of county commissioners of Otter Tail county, that we authorize the county auditor to rent four rooms for the following officers, namely: Auditor, treasurer, register of deeds and clerk of court, and, whereas, Louis Goodsell has offered to rent the rooms necessary, the county auditor is hereby authorized to contract with said Goodsell for the above-named rooms for the period of one year and date from the 15th day of October, 1878."

On the same day the commissioners decided to rent the building which had been used as a court house in Fergus Falls prior to this time. In the same resolution which made provision for the rental of the old court house, authority was given the committee to purchase stoves for the Goodsell building which was to become the new temple of justice. This action of the commissioners is set forth in the following resolution:

"Resolved by the board of county commissioners of Otter Tail county that we appoint H. Juelson, a committee of one, to buy stoves necessary for the county use, and also the same committee is hereby authorized to rent the court house to any responsible person, who will pay the most rent, and to sell the furnace under the court house, and be it further resolved that the above committee is hereby authorized to draw out of the county revenue fund the amount of money necessary to buy the above mentioned stoves."

The Goodsell building, which, by the way, is still standing and is now (1916) used by Lake & Lowry as a real estate and loan office, continued to serve as a court house until the present building was ready for occupancy. The basement was fitted up for offices and the second story was used as a court room.

However, this arrangement did not prove satisfactory and on January 10, 1879, it was "Resolved, that the chairman of the board of county commissioners is hereby instructed to procure plans and specifications for a court house for this county, said plans and specifications not to be paid for by said county unless used, said plan, etc., to be for a brick court house to be of the cost of about ten thousand dollars."

Between the January and March sessions, 1879, it seems there must have been an agitation to combine the court house and jail in one building;

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at least on March 21st the board decided "to build a court house with jail in the basement, the cost not to exceed fifteen thousand dollars." In view of the fact that the building which was proposed on this day is still standing, it seems pertinent to record here the resolution which made possible the present building. It follows:

"Whereas, the board of county commissioners of the county of Otter Tail have this day determined to build county buildings to-wit: A court house and jail, on block 37 in the village of Fergus Falls in said county.

"Therefore, be it resolved by the board of county commissioners of said Otter Tail county, that A. Leverson, Clement Crogan and Hans Juelson be and they are hereby appointed a building committee and they are hereby authorized and directed to proceed without unnecessary delay to contract for the building of said court house and jail for said Otter Tail county, to be built in the year 1879, and the said committee aforesaid are hereby fully authorized and empowered to do anything necessary and proper within the premises.

"Provided, that the contract for the construction of said buildings shall be let to the lowest bidder who shall execute a good and sufficient bond with sufficient sureties in such amount as said committee shall determine, to be approved by the chairman of the board of county commissioners.

"And provided, further, that such buildings shall not cost more than the sum of fifteen thousand dollars when fully completed. Resolved, further, that said court house and jail shall be constructed of brick, or of brick and stone, to be made as near fireproof as practicable, with sufficient fireproof vaults to contain all public records of said county.

"Resolved, further, that the jail be made in the basement of said court house.

"Resolved, further, that said committee be and they are hereby authorized and empowered to employ a suitable man or men to superintend the construction of said buildings, in their discretion.

"Resolved by the board of county commissioners of the county of Otter Tail, that the bonds of the county be issued in the sum of six thousand dollars ($6,000) pursuant to chapter seventy (70) of the Special Laws of 1877, for the purpose of raising money for the erection of county buildings for said county—such bonds to be signed by the chairman of said board and countersigned by the county auditor and made payable in Boston, Massachusetts. Such bonds shall be in denominations of not less than the sum of one hundred dollars nor more than the sum of one thousand dollars; said bonds to have interest coupons attached and payable as follows, to-wit:

"One thousand dollars payable five years after date.

"One thousand dollars payable six years after date.

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"One thousand dollars payable seven years after date.

"One thousand dollars payable eight years after date.

"One thousand dollars payable nine years after date.

"One thousand dollars payable ten years after date.

"That said bonds shall bear interest at the rate of seven per cent. per annum, payable semi-annually, and shall not be sold for less than par. Resolved, that said bonds shall be sold by the treasurer of the said county. Resolved, further, that the county auditor and county treasurer keep a correct record of said bonds. Adopted March 21, 1879."

There seemed to be some doubt on the part of some as to the legality of the action of the county commissioners in regard to the levying of the mill tax for the purpose of building the court house. In order to quiet any apprehensions, the commissioners asked the Legislature to pass an act legalizing their action in this matter and the Legislature responded by passing the act of February 14, 1879. This act follows:

"Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Minnesota: That the action of the board of county commissioners of the county of Otter Tail, in levying a tax of one mill upon each dollar of the taxable property of said county, for the year 1878, for the purpose of raising a fund to build a court house in and for said county, is hereby declared legalized and made valid, the same as though the action of the said county commissioners in assessing and levying said tax had been in strict conformity to the statutes existing and in force at the time of such assessment and levy."

The contract for the building of the court house was let to Stanford Brothers, of Fergus Falls, in the spring of 1879 for the sum of thirteen thousand two hundred dollars. The architect was E. P. Bassford and he received a total of two hundred and ninety dollars for his services. The grading around the building cost an additional five hundred thirty-five dollars and fifty-three cents, making the total cost to the county of fourteen thousand twenty-five dollars and fifty-three cents.

Unfortunately, the first court house was too small and within half a dozen years the building was so crowded that it became imperative that an addition must be built at once. On January 3, 1888, the commissioners passed a resolution authorizing an addition and on March 21, at the following session, a contract was let to Stanford Brothers for eight thousand seven hundred and seventy-five dollars. The first floor of this addition is now occupied by the auditor and register of deeds. This addition practically doubled the size of the building and it was thought that it would prove of sufficient size for many years to come. The present heating system was installed in 1895-96 by Hoorn, Bergman & Company. By 1902 the clerk of the district court and the probate judge became so cramped for space

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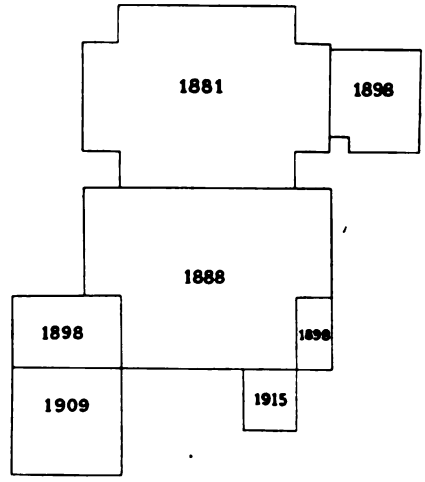
that the board ordered an addition, locally known as a vault. This was built in the summer of 1902 by John Lauritzen, at a cost to the county of five hundred thirty-four dollars and two cents. The county business kept increasing by leaps and bounds and it was not long before the auditor had to have additional room. In 1898 a vault was built adjoining the auditor's office in the rear, the addition costing two thousand nine hundred and forty-five dollars. The fourth addition to the rapidly growing building was built in the summer of 1909 at a cost of two thousand nine hundred dollars. This was another vault for the use of the auditor and stands in the rear of the first vault built for this office in 1898. John Lauritzen built the 1909 addition and during the same summer repaired the vault attached to the



GROUND PLAN OF OTTER TAIL COUNTY COURT HOUSE.

clerk's office. When Lauritzen built the 1902 vault, the commissioners did not want to go to the expense of putting in a good foundation and the result was that the vault in the course of time started down the hill toward the jail. Lauritzen, in his bid of two thousand nine hundred dollars, was not only to build the vault for the auditor, but also to move the clerk's office back up the hill and put it on a firm foundation. The last addition of the court house was completed in the summer of 1915 at a cost of one thousand one hundred and seventy dollars. This was a vault for the register of deeds and was built by J. P. Johnson, who was awarded the bid by the commissioners on April 25, 1915. A small coal shed was built at the southwest corner of the building, adjoining the register of deeds' office several years ago at the time the heating plant was installed. It would be impossible to designate the kind of architecture represented by this building, erected, as it has been, under such circumstances. To the original building completed in

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1881 there have been no less than six additions at different times, and yet the building presents a very respectable appearance from the outside. To the casual observer it does not appear as a conglomerate structure, a fact due to the use of the same colored brick in all of the additions. Time only can tell when the building will become so crowded that it will be necessary to build the seventh addition, but it is safe to say that it will be only a few years.

SUMMARY OF THE COST OF THE PRESENT COURT HOUSE.

Original building	1881	$13,200.00
Doubling size of	1888	8,775.00
First vault of auditor, vault of clerk and probate judge	1898	2,945.00
Steel ceilings and general repairs	1902	534.02
Second vault of auditor	1909	2,900.00
Vault for register of deeds	1915	1,170.00
Total cost		$29,524.02

THE FIRST JAIL.

It was not until after the county had been organized two years that any effort was made by the county commissioners to provide a place for the incarceration of prisoners. While the county seat was still at Tordenskjold, Alick Johnson, the chairman of the board, offered a resolution on October 18, 1870, to build a court house and jail "at the county seat, Tordenskjold, for the sum of one thousand dollars, to be built in the months of December, 1870, and January, February, March, April and May, 1871." The jail was to be eighteen by twelve feet and built of large oak logs. The cost was to be included within the one thousand dollars, which, according to the resolution, was to cover the construction of both the court house and jail. This resolution was adopted "by a majority of the board of county commissioners of Otter Tail county. October 19, 1870."

However, this was the nearest that the county came to building a jail at Tordenskjold, if the records of the commissioners disclose all of their proceedings. The last meeting of the board at Tordenskjold was held in January, 1871, but, strange to say, no mention is made in the record of the county seat being changed to Otter Tail City, where the March meeting of the board was held. The seat of justice remained at the latter place until it was moved to Fergus Falls, the first meeting of the board at the latter village being held on January 7, 1873.

The first actual steps toward providing Otter Tail county with a jail were taken on March 15, 1871, when a deputation of citizens from Otter

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Tail City appeared before the commissioners and asked that a jail be built in their village. The commissioners seem to have felt that such building ought to be erected and, accordingly, appointed a committee, composed of J. H. Sanders, J. S. Cowell and C. H. Myer, to investigate the matter and report at the next meeting of the board. No steps were taken at the next meeting (May 9, 1871), but on July 10, 1871, the board definitely decided to erect a jail in Otter Tail City and appointed Marcus Shaw and Martin Fiedler to receive bids for a jail to be built of "Sollid Oak logs hued on three sides and floor and ceiling of the same matirial and hued on three sides." This building was to be eighteen by twelve feet inside and eight feet from floor to ceiling, with gable ends of boards and roof of shingles. Otter Tail City agreed to donate three "good" lots for the jail site. The building was to be ready for occupancy by August 15, 1871.

When the board met for the next time (August 8) Marcus Shaw was awarded the contract, his bid of four hundred and twenty-five dollars being the lowest of a number submitted. On the same date the commissioners ordered a description of the proposed jail spread upon the records. This log bastile was to conform to the following specifications—the exact language, bad spelling and punctuation and impossible grammar are reproduced verbatim:

"Resolved by the board of county commissioners of Otter Tail, State of Minnesota; That we will build a jail for said county of Otter Tail of the size and shape as follows;

"Twenty feet long inside and sixteen feet wide and eight feet between floor and ceiling. The house shall either be built of oak or pine logs hued on four sides in the walls and on three sides in the floor and ceiling no log in floor ceiling and outer walls shall be smaler then to measure six inches diameter on the top and after it is hued. The gable ends shall be made of good pine lumber and in workmanlike manner fitted up. The roof shall be of good pine lumber and pine rafters and of No. — pine shingles sufficiently nailed and fitted on.

"The inside of said jail shall be divided into rooms as follows: two cells each six by ten and one room six by twelve feet and one room eight by sixteen feet. There shall be five windows in the whole building and all grated with three-fourth of anch round iron in sufficient number to be proper for such house. There shall be four doors one of them shall be three inches thick & lined with heavy sheet iron between a thickness of boards on both sides of said sheet to make it a thickness of three inches said last mentioned door shall be the door leading from prisoners room into the Sheriff.

"The last described door shall also be locked with an iron bar across five eight of an inch thick heavy tire iron. There shall also be two iron

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gates one into each cell the up and down iron in said gate shall be of sound three fourth of an inch bars and placed four inches appart and on the said gates shall be four bars accross of heavy tire iron and sollid hinges and sufficient locks propper for such house. The partitions wall shall be of the same strength and thickness except, the walls between the two cells shall be only four inches thick logs in planks. The two windows in the Sheriffs room shall have twelve paines of glases, each pain ten inches by twelve and the three (3) windows in the cells shall have three pains in each and each pain ten by twelve. There shall allso be a chimney made of bricks well burnt and sollid and good, and there shall allso be put on a dicent cornice under the roof and all sides of said house. Said jail shall be ready for use on or before the first Tuesday in September A. D. 1871."

When the commissioners met on the second Tuesday of the following September they found the jail practically completed and ordered the auditor to issue county orders to the contractor, Marcus Shaw, for four hundred dollars. Although he took the contract at four hundred and twenty-five dollars, yet on this date, September 6, it appears that he was to receive four hundred and fifty dollars, the final fifty dollars to be paid "at any future time when the said M. Shaw has according to bargain finished said jail." But this jail of "Sollid Oak hued logs" was destined to remain in Otter Tail City only a short time. Within a year after it had been accepted, an agitation was begun to remove the county seat to Fergus Falls.

The county commissioners held their first meeting at Fergus Falls on January 7, 1873, and authorized Hans Juelson, a member of the board, "to move the county jail from Otter Tail City to the village of Fergus Falls and rebuild the same on block 37 in said Fergus Falls on a suitable site." This order was carried into effect and the jail, after being razed at Otter Tail City, was hauled log by log, to Fergus Falls and raised on lot 3, block 33, the vacant lot immediately west of where the Park Hotel now stands.

The first step towards a new jail in Fergus Falls was made on January 5, 1877, when the commissioners appointed a committee, consisting of the auditor, treasurer and register of deeds, "to procure and submit a plan for court house and jail, and the probable cost of same, and report at the next meeting of this board." Not only was no report made concerning new county buildings at the next meeting, but it was not until two years later that the board made any effort toward building either a court house or jail. On January 10, 1879, a resolution was passed which instructed the chairman of the board to procure plans and specifications for a court house and it was their intention to provide quarters for prisoners in the basement of the proposed court house. At the next meeting of the board (March 21, 1879) they decided "to build a court house with jail in the basement, the cost not

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to exceed fifteen thousand dollars." The building was to stand on block 37, in the village of Fergus Falls, to be made of brick or of stone and brick, as near fireproof as possible and with sufficient fireproof vaults to contain all the public records of the county.

At this same meeting the board made provisions for financing the construction of the buidling. Bonds to the amount of six thousand dollars (issued pursuant to chapter 70 of the Special Laws of 1877) were issued and made payable in Boston, Massachusetts. These bonds were divided into six lots of one thousand each, the first falling due five years after date, the second, six years, and the sixth and last lot being payable ten years after date. The bonds bore seven per cent. interest and were not to be sold at less than par value.

The court house was completed in the fall of 1881, but for some reason no provision was made in the basement for the jail. In 1882 a contract was let to J. H. Van Dorn, of St. Louis, for the remodeling of the basement and the installation of three steel cages. This work was completed in the summer of the following year, but within less than two years it was seen that this had been a useless expenditure of money. The arrangement not only did not provide sufficient room for the incarceration of prisoners, but it was so unsanitary that it received, and no doubt merited, the severe condemnation of the health authorities.

There was much opposition to the temporary arrangement whereby the basement was used for jail purposes at the time the work was being done. By 1885 it was very evident that the county would be compelled to build a jail and, being unable to do this without a bond issue, the Legislature was asked to pass an act authorizing a bond issue. The Legislature responded by passing an act on February 24, 1885, as follows:

"Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Minnesota:

"Section 1—That the board of county commissioners of the county of Otter Tail be, and hereby are, authorized to issue and negotiate bonds in an amount not exceeding thirty thousand dollars for the purpose of constructing a county jail and sheriff's residence in Fergus Falls, the county seat of said county.

"Section 2—Said bonds, and the interest coupons attached, shall be signed by the chairman of said board of county commissioners, and attested by the auditor of said county and sealed with his seal. The auditor of said county shall keep a record of all of said bonds that may be issued, which record shall show the date, number and amount of each bond, the rate of interest, the time when due, the place where payable, and the name of the party to whom issued.

"Section 3—Such bonds shall bear interest at a rate not exceeding seven

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per centum per annum, and be issued in such denominations, and be made payable at such place as the board of county commissioners shall determine. The principal shall become due and payable not more than thirty nor less than ten years from the date thereof.

"Section 4—The board of county commissioners of said county shall have authority to negotiate said bonds as in their judgment shall be for the best interests of said county, but not for less than their par value.

"Section 5—The proper authorities of said county shall annually levy, in addition to all other taxes, an amount sufficient to pay the interest on the bonds so issued; and when any principal sum is about to become due may levy a sufficient amount to pay such principal when due.

"Section 6—This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage. Approved February 24, 1885."

The whole issue of thirty thousand dollars was sold on March 27, 1885, to N. W. Harris & Company, of New York City, the company paying a premium of one hundred and eighteen dollars. E. P. Bassford was employed as architect and his plans were ready in a short time. The bids were opened on April 23, 1885, and the contract let on the same day. The contract was let in two parts, one for the building proper and the other for the iron and steel work. Stanford Brothers, of Fergus Falls, who had built the court house, secured the bid for the construction of the building, with a bid of $11,490, and J. H. Van Dorn was the successful bidder for the iron and steel work. His bid of $9,850 was the lowest of the several bids submitted. These combined bids, with the subsequent extras which invariably creep in, brought the total cost of the jail up to $21,852.32.

At the time the jail was built it was considered the finest penal institution in the state of its kind. It combined all the latest and most improved ideas in jail construction, and was in every way the best jail in the whole state. Built as it was, under the direction of the state board of corrections and charities, it conformed in every particular with their ideas along the latest methods of sanitation. When the steel cages were taken out of the basement of the court house, an addition was made to the jail which contained two of them. It was thought that they were too valuable to throw away and, as the county could not get a fair price for them, it was finally decided to make the addition to the jail and put them into it. With this exception, the jail stands as it did when it was built thirty years ago, and so well was the building built that it bids fair to stand for many years yet to come.

COUNTY TUBERCULOSIS SANATORIUM.

An act of the Legislature was passed on April 23, 1909, which provided for the establishment and maintenance of public tuberculosis sanatoria in the

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various counties of the state. Within less than three years after this act became a law, Otter Tail county took steps to provide such an institution and at the present time has one of the best equipped tuberculosis sanatoria in the whole state. In the spring of 1912 a sanatorium commission of three members, consisting of Dr. O. M. Haugan, O. M. Carr and T. A. Ranstad, was appointed by the county commissioners. As soon as this body was organized, it proceeded to investigate the several sites which had been suggested as being suitable for the sanatorium. It was finally decided to purchase fifty-eight (58.15) acres in Amor township, lying on the western shores of Otter Tail lake. This tract (northwest one-fourth of the northeast one-fourth and lot 1, section 32, township 134, range 40) was purchased from Sven and Josephine Kron for the sum of $2,895.62, the deed being dated July 16, 1912.

With the purchase of the land settled, the next question was the erection of a building for the accommodation of patients. In the fall of 1912 the commission let the contract for the building to Alex Nelson, of Perham, and he at once began work on its construction. The county in the meantime had made arrangements to advance money to the amount of twenty thousand dollars, if such an amount was necessary. Before the building was fairly started, the Legislature passed an act which relieved the county of a great part of the expense in the erection of the building. This act provided that the state should pay the commissioners of the county sanatoria of the state "five hundred dollars for each bed provided for a patient in such sanatorium at the time application is made."

Pursuant to this act, the county commissioners, on July 16, 1913, applied to the Minnesota state sanatorium advisory commission for a sum of money for the Otter Tail county sanatorium in proportion to the number of beds which it had installed. The state commission investigated the local institution and reported that a total of thirty-seven beds had been provided. This report meant that the county would receive eighteen thousand five hundred and fifty dollars from the state, and the full amount was received in the due course of time. In addition to this sum, the county has expended about twelve thousand dollars, so that the present plant represents an outlay of at least thirty thousand dollars.

The contractor completed his work in October, 1913, and in the same month the building was dedicated with appropriate ceremonies. The building itself, with the grading and a few other incidentals, cost about seventeen thousand dollars. The equipment for the many rooms, installation of the laundry, lighting system and other necessary additions have brought the total up to nearly twice that amount.

The present management of the sanatorium is vested in the commission

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appointed by the county commissioners, namely: Dr. O. M. Haugan, T. A. Ranstad and John Lien. All the money for the maintenance of the institution is in their charge, a responsibility for which the law requires that they severally give a bond for five thousand dollars. Since the sanatorium was started, in the fall of 1913, it has been in charge of three different superintendents, all of whom have been women, namely: C. Russell, Hilda Edson and Mary C. Beall.

The last report of the county sanatorium commission to the county commissioners was made in March, 1916. The commission finds that the present law providing for county sanatoria is proving very expensive. It appears from its report that a change will have to be made in the management of the institution in this county. No better statement of the conditions as regards the county sanatorium can be given than is to be found in the report of the commission. This report, which is signed by A. B. Cole as president, John Lien and T. A. Ranstad, is as follows:

To the Honorable Board of County Commissioners:

Gentlemen—Enclosed you will find the financial statement of the county sanatorium for the year 1915.

You will notice that the expense of running the same is rather high and in fact it will always be so under the present law governing it. The running expense, not counting upkeep or permanent improvements, amounts to sixteen dollars and fifty-two cents per week for each patient. We receive ten dollars per week from patients residing outside of the county, making a loss on each non-resident patient of six dollars and fifty-two cents per week. If we add this loss to the care of our county patients it would make it still more.

The facts are that the sanitorium is top heavy and the overhead expense so great it can never be conducted reasonably cheap.

It is under five different heads, none of which is in complete control. We have the state board of control, state board of health, state sanatorium commission, the board of county commissioners and the county sanatorium commission appointed by you.

It is bound round with red tape so thoroughly that it can never be run economically or successfully under the present law. Your county sanatorium commission has no particular excuse for existing as such. The only real work for them to do is to pass the bills, so many of which they naturally know nothing about, appear before the county commissioners to ask for more money and otherwise as the happy receiver for such kicks and criticisms as a well-meaning public may see fit to hand them. We have nothing to say as to whether a resident physician shall be employed or not, or how often the state physician shall see the patients.

The idea of county sanatoria is wrong. The unit is too small. It should be not less than a congressional district. Having so small a unit it makes it exceedingly expensive to run. It has been truly said: "That what is everybody's business soon becomes nobody's business," and it particularly holds good with an institution with five different heads, each of which has other work to do and nothing definitely known where one responsibility begins or the other ends.

During the year 1915 the county appropriated the sum of $13,500 for maintenance and permanent improvements, $2,000 of which is now in the hands of the state for sewer purposes. During the same period the records show that warrants were issued for the sum of $21,448.80.

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The maintenance fund is now overdrawn to the amount of $475, with the April bills mostly unpaid.

Therefore we must ask you for an additional appropriation at your next meeting.

It is possible that a better showing can be made during the coming year but not enough to make any appreciable difference.

We therefore recommend that the money necessary for maintenance of the sanatorium for the present year be appropriated by your board and that efforts be made to secure proper changes in the sanatorium law at the hands of the next legislature.

A. B. COLE, President County Sanatorium Commission.
JOHN LIEN.
T. A. RANSTAD.

COUNTY POOR FARM.

The first steps taken by the county looking toward the establishment of a poor farm were made at the July, 1880, session of the county commissioners. On the 28th of the month, A. Levorsen, the chairman of the board, offered a resolution to the effect that the county buy such a farm. The resolution was passed and the chairman appointed a committee of three, of which he was one, the committee being authorized to select and purchase a farm of not less than one hundred and sixty acres. The board further provided for a special bond issue of three thousand dollars for the purpose of purchasing the farm and erecting suitable buildings upon it. The site for the proposed farm was selected and an option taken on the land, which was owned by Charles and August Wessberg. There were two hundred acres in all, and it was purchased as follows: One hundred and twenty acres from Charles Wessberg and eighty acres from August Wessberg. This transaction took place January 7, 1881, and one thousand six hundred and ten dollars was the amount paid for the two tracts. On January 7, 1881, the commissioners ordered the sum of one thousand six hundred and ten dollars issued in county orders to pay for the poor farm. The original tract of two hundred acres has received one addition of forty acres, which was purchased from Robert Spickermann, November 24, 1886, for two hundred and forty dollars. It is situated in sections 22 and 23, of Fergus Falls township.

There were no buildings on the land when it was purchased and the commissioners immediately provided for the erection of suitable buildings for the housing of the county's inmates. The one building erected at first is the same which is in use at the present time, although it has been remodeled and made more modern. A basement was placed under the entire building and a steam-heating plant has been installed, making it very comfortable. There have also been built smaller outbuildings, for the poultry and stock, and the barn has been enlarged several times. The farm is so managed that it is self-sustaining, and the county is never called upon for assistance except in case of extended repairs or additions. George W. Sheldon was appointed as the first overseer of the poor and superintendent of the

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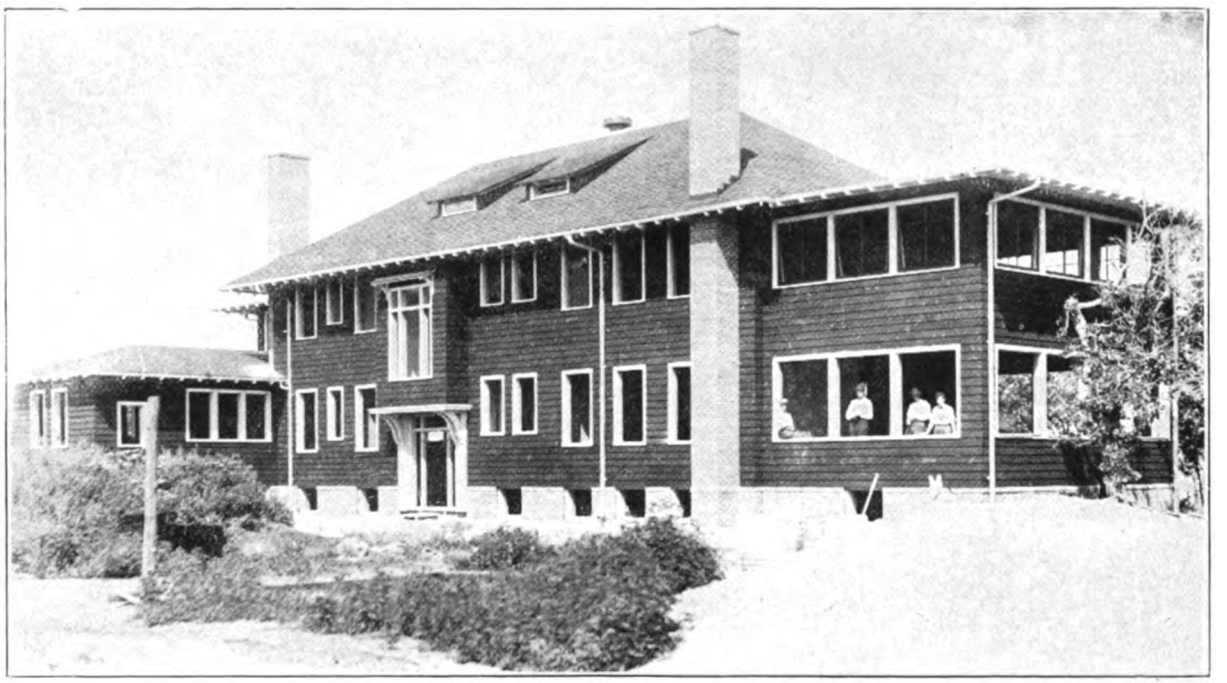

COUNTY TUBERCULOSIS SANATARIUM.

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poor farm for the term of one year, January 5, 1882, at a salary of eight hundred dollars for himself and wife. The first inmate, Otto Schofield, recorded in the county farm is dated November 26, 1881. Sheldon and his wife continued in charge of the poor farm until January 8, 1885, when O. C. Chase was appointed by the county commissioners. Chase was succeeded, on January 6, 1888, by F. J. Titus, who was in charge until Theodore Holt assumed its management, on January 4, 1893. Holt served continuously as superintendent until January 6, 1910, a period of seventeen years, which is ample proof that his services were in every way satisfactory. John Hansen has been in charge of the poor farm since January 6, 1910, his wife serving as matron. The county allows the superintendent and his wife a salary of nine hundred and fifty dollars a year.

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CHAPTER VI.

OFFICIALS OF THE COUNTY.

There is no record of any county officials before the fall of 1868, although Otter Tail county had a kind of an indefinite legal entity for the previous decade. It seems that there must have been some kind of a county organization prior to 1862; at least the census records list two hundred and forty residents in the county, and it is fair to presume that they had some kind of local government. The first definite records in the present court house, however, state that the county began its official career on September 12, 1868, with the first meeting of the county commissioners. The first commissioners and the auditor were appointed by Governor William R. Marshall some time in 1868 prior to September. It was the duty of the commissioners to effect the organization of the county, to define the first election precincts, to set the date for the first election and perform such other duties as might be necessary to get the county started. The commissioners formerly had more power than they possess today, especially in the way of appointment of certain county officials. At first they appointed the county superintendent of schools, county attorney and coroner, and, in case of vacancies, they had the power to appoint to any other county office, the appointee to hold until the next regular election. In many ways the county commissioners are still the most important of our county officials.

The salaries of the first county officials were very meagre, and yet their salary was probably about in proportion to the amount of work they had to do for the county. Most of them for the first few years had their offices in their own homes, and carried on their regular occupations while at the same time officiating as auditor, treasurer, attorney, etc. During the eighties the salaries of the county officials reached very respectable proportions, and by the end of the decade there was a hue and cry to the effect that they were getting too much. The upshot of the discussion in the newspapers of the county, by the villagers in the hamlets and the farmers in the fields, was the demand for legislative act to reduce their salaries. The Legislature was appealed to and responded by passing the act of April 6, 1891, which still operates in the county. In view of the fact that it has now been on the statute books for more than a quarter of a century, it seems appropriate to give the act in full. It follows:

"An act regulating the salaries and fees of certain county officials of Otter Tail county.

"*Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Minnesota:*

"Section 1. The following named officers of Otter Tail county shall hereafter each

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receive an annual salary of fifteen hundred dollars, to-wit: County auditor, register of deeds, clerk of court, judge of probate, superintendent of schools.

"Hereafter the annual salary of the county treasurer of said county shall be sixteen hundred dollars and that of the county attorney shall be twelve hundred dollars.

"Section 2. The salaries hereinbefore provided shall respectively be paid in twelve annual installments, one at the end of each month, by the county treasurer, out of the treasury of the county, upon the warrant of the county auditor.

"Section 3. The sheriff of said county shall be entitled to receive for his services, in lieu of other compensation, seventy per centum of the fees and compensation provided by section eleven of chapter seventy of the General Statutes of 1878, or by any other law of the state now applicable to said county, save as hereinafter otherwise provided.

"For boarding prisoners he shall be allowed three dollars per week. He shall be allowed the reasonable fees paid to any printer by said sheriff for publishing an advertisement of sale. In cases where mileage is not expressly provided he shall be entitled to expenses necessarily incurred by him and such other compensation for travel as the board of county commissioners shall allow him.

"Section 4. The said sheriff shall hereafter keep, during the years 1891 and 1892, in a proper book to be prepared for the purpose, an exact account of all business of his office for each day, and of all moneys received and disbursed by him as such sheriff on such day, which said book shall be kept in his office and open to public inspection at all reasonable times.

"On the first Monday of April, July, October and January of said years, and each and every year thereafter, he shall file with the county auditor a statement of all fees received and disbursements made by him as such sheriff.

"Section 5. All parts of acts, so far as the same may be inconsistent with the provisions of this act, are hereby repealed: Provided, that nothing in this section contained shall apply to section eleven of chapter thirty of General Statutes of 1878, nor to any general law of this state applicable to the office of sheriff.

"Section 6. This act shall not apply to the salary or fees of any officer named in sections one and three thereof until from and after the first Monday in January, 1893. Approved April 6, 1891."

During 1915 the first definite effort was made by the officials of the county to have this law set aside. The case was tried before Judge John A. Roeser, of St. Cloud, who handed down his decision in October, 1915. The judge decided that the act of 1891 is constitutional and that it had not been repealed by any subsequent act. The theory of the Otter Tail county officials was that the law was unconstitutional on the ground that it was special legislation.

The officials who brought the suit to test the constitutionality of the special act of 1891 at once appealed the case to the supreme court of the state, where it is set for hearing before that tribunal in May. It is pertinent to remark in this connection that Judge Roeser found against the officials of Otter Tail county on all counts and held that relief such as they asked can come only through the Legislature.

It is certainly but a question of a short time before the officials of the county will be paid salaries commensurate with their work. As it is, they receive the smallest salary in proportion to the work they do of any county

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officials in the state of Minnesota. The unjustness of the 1891 act is seen when it is known that Stearns county, which is in the same class with Otter Tail county as regards population and assessed valuation, pays its county officials practically twice the salary received by the officials of Otter Tail county.

The Legislature passed an act April 23, 1913, which promised for the election of 1914 of the following county officers, all of whose terms were to be four years: Auditor, treasurer, sheriff, register of deeds, attorney, coroner, surveyor and superintendent of the schools. The act further provided that their terms of office were to begin on the first Monday in January next succeeding the election. This act makes the term of all the county officers four years, with the exception of the judge of probate, whose term of office is fixed by the constitution at two years. An amendment to the constitution to make the tenure of this office four years was voted on at the 1914 election, but failed of adoption. It is to be voted on again at the November, 1916, election.

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

The first county commissioners of Otter Tail county were appointed by the governor and, according to law, he was to appoint three, but for some reason only two qualified in Otter Tail county. These two men, Chauncey Whiting and Marcus Shaw, held their first meeting at Clitherall on September 12, 1868, and divided the county into election precincts. The full record of this first meeting is given verbatim:

"Clitherall, September 12, 1868.

"The county commissioners of Otter Tail county met at the house of Marcus Shaw and transacted the following business:

"First—Divided Otter Tail county into three election precincts, described as follows:

"The Rush Lake precinct to comprise of all the territory north of township line running between 133 and 134 of Otter Tail county.

"Second—Clitherall precinct to comprise of township 131, 132 and 133, in ranges 36, 37, 38, 39 and 40, in Otter Tail county.

"Third—The Ten Mile Lake precinct to comprise of townships 131, 132 and 133, in ranges 41, 42 and 43, in aforesaid county.

"Fourth—Appointed judges of election for 1868 as follows: For Rush Lake precinct, William McArthur, B. Boedigheimer and F. Staab as judges of election; Giles Peakes, clerk for said election, to be held at the house of Joseph Weis.

"Fifth—Clitherall precinct, Chauncey Whiting, Marcus Shaw and Hyram Murdock act as judges of said election; S. J. Whiting as clerk of

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election, to be held at the school house in Clitherall, Otter Tail county, Minnesota.

"Attest:

"SYLVESTER J. WHITING, "Clerk of Board.

MARCUS SHAW, Chairman of Board."

DIVISION OF THE COUNTY INTO FIVE COMMISSIONERS' DISTRICTS

The county at first had only two commissioners (Marcus Shaw and Chancey Whiting), but with the first election there were three. According to statutory provision, when any county had a minimum of eight hundred voters it was entitled to five commissioners. The election of November, 1871, showed that Otter Tail county had the required number of voters to be entitled to five commissioners, and accordingly on November 17 of that year the board ordered the county divided into five districts, as follow:

District No. 1—Township 137, ranges 36, 37, 38, 39 and 40; township 136, ranges 36, 37, 38, 39 and 40; township 135, ranges 36, 37, 38, 39 and 40.

District No. 2—Townships 133, 134, 135, 136 and 137 of ranges 41 and 42; townships 133, 134, 135 of range 40.

District No. 3—Townships 131 and 132 of ranges 39, 40, 41, 42 and 43.

District No. 4—Townships 131, 132, 133 and 134 of ranges 36, 37 and 38; townships 133 and 134 of range 39.

District No. 5—Townships 132, 133, 134, 135, 136 and 137 of range 43.

As the county increased in population changes in districts were made from time to time in order to have approximately the same number of voters in each district. On July 28, 1881, the county commissioners established the districts as they are at the present time and no change has been made in them since that date. As now constituted they are as follow:

District No. 1—Candor, Hobart, Gorman, Corliss, Butler, Paddock, Blowers, Homestead, Pine Lake, Perham, Edna, Dora, Star Lake, Dead Lake, Rush Lake, Otto, Newton and Bluffton.

District No. 2—Scambler, Dunn, Lida, Pelican, Norwegian Grove, Trondhjem, Erhards Grove, Maplewood and Oscar.

District No. 3—Amor, Otter Tail, Girard, Everts, Sverdrup, Tordenskjold, Clitherall, Nidaros, Leaf Mountain, Eagle Lake, St. Olaf and Tumuli.

District No. 4—Leaf Lake, Deer Creek, Compton, Oak Valley, Inman, Henning, Folden, Elmo, Woodside, Eastern, Parkers Prairie and Effington.

District No. 5—Elizabeth, Carlisle, Fergus Falls, Aurdal, Dane, Prairie, Buse, Orwell, Western and Aastad.

A complete list of the county commissioners from 1868 to the present time is as follows:

1868—Chauncey Whiting, Marcus Shaw.

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1869—Chauncey Whiting, Marcus Shaw (resigned May 20, 1869), E. J. Lacey.

1870—G. Stoutland, Alexander Johnson, Martin Fiedler.

1871—Hans Juelson, Alexander Johnson, Martin Fiedler.

1872—Hans Juelson, Ernest Buse, Alexander Johnson, Martin Fiedler, J. G. Nelson.

1873—Hans Juelson, Hamilton H. Hall, A. B. Larson, Martin Fiedler, J. G. Nelson.

1874—Hamilton Hall, Jacob Schwab, Joseph Zimmerman, A. B. Larson, Hans Juelson.

1875—Hamilton H. Hall, Jacob Schwab, Joseph Zimmerman, B. L. Bull, Henry Hoff.

1876—Hamilton H. Hall, A. Levorson, Joseph Zimmerman, B. L. Bull, Henry Hoff.

1877—Hamilton H. Hall, A. Levorson, Joseph Zimmerman, B. L. Bull, Henry Hoff.

1878—Hans Juelson, A. Levorson, Joseph Zimmerman, Clement Crogan, Hamilton H. Hall.

1879—Clement Crogan, A. Levorson, Joseph Zimmerman, J. W. French, Hans Juelson.

1880—Clement Crogan, A. Levorson, Joseph Zimmerman, J. W. French, Hans Juelson.

1881—R. F. Adley, Jacob Austin, J. H. Gray, J. W. French, Henry Hoff.

1882—R. F. Adley, Jacob Austin, J. H. Gray, Homer Crocker, Henry Hoff.

1883—R. F. Adley, Jacob Austin, Knud Pederson, Homer Crocker, A. S. Blowers.

1884—Melvin Leonard, Jacob Austin (resigned August 2, 1884, and G. O. Dahl appointed to fill his unexpired term), Knud Pederson, Homer Crocker, A. S. Blowers.

1885—Melvin Leonard, O. C. Chase, Knud Pederson, Homer Crocker, A. S. Blowers.

1886—A. S. Blowers, Melvin Leonard, Knud Pederson, Homer Crocker, O. C. Chase.

1887—Peter Jung, August Kowalski, Knud Pederson, Frank Sanders, O. C. Chase.

1888—Peter Jung, August Kowalski, Knud Pederson, Frank Sanders, O. C. Chase.

1889—A. O. Richardson, August Kowalski (resigned at July session, 1889, and A. T. Vigen appointed to fill his unexpired term), Knud Pederson, Frank Sanders, O. C. Chase.

1890—A. O. Richardson, A. T. Vigen, Knud Pederson, Frank Sanders, O. C. Chase.

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1891—A. O. Richardson, A. T. Vigen, Knud Pederson, Frank Sanders, P. J. Hughes (resigned July 1, 1891, and William Hoefling was appointed to fill his unexpired term).

1892—A. O. Richardson, A. T. Vigen, Knud Pederson, O. S. Johnson, William Hoefling.

1893—Charles Miller, A. T. Vigen, Knud Pederson, O. S. Johnson, William Hoefling.

1894—Charles Miller, A. T. Vigen, Knud Pederson, O. S. Johnson, William Hoefling.

1895—Charles Miller, J. A. Foulds, Knud Pederson, O. S. Johnson, William Hoefling.

1896—Charles Miller, J. A. Foulds, Knud Pederson, O. S. Johnson, William Hoefling.

1897—A. J. Seitz, J. A. Foulds, John Baardson, O. S. Johnson, J. P. Haave.

1898—A. J. Seitz, J. A. Foulds, John Baardson, O. S. Johnson, J. P. Haave.

1899—A. J. Seitz, Andrew Wagstrom, John Baardson, E. R. Keplinger, J. P. Haave.

1900—A. J. Seitz, Andrew Wagstrom, John Baardson, E. R. Keplinger, J. P. Haave.

1901—A. J. Seitz, Andrew Wagstrom, John Baardson, E. R. Keplinger, J. P. Haave.

1902—J. L. Sawyer, Andrew Wagstrom, Ludwig Jenson, E. R. Keplinger, G. A. Lindquist.

1903—J. L. Sawyer, Andrew Wagstrom, Ludwig Jenson, George F. Freeman, G. A. Lindquist.

1904—J. L. Sawyer, Andrew Wagstrom, Ludwig Jenson, George F. Freeman, G. A. Lindquist.

1905—J. L. Sawyer, Andrew Wagstrom, Ludwig Jenson, George F. Freeman, G. O. Dahl.

1906—J. L. Sawyer, Andrew Wagstrom, Ludwig Jenson, George F. Freeman, G. O. Dahl.

1907—J. L. Sawyer, A. T. Vigen, Ludwig Jenson, George F. Freeman, G. O. Dahl.

1908—J. L. Sawyer, A. T. Vigen, Ludwig Jenson, George F. Freeman, G. O. Dahl.

1909—Martin Shea, A. T. Vigen, Thore Glende, George F. Freeman, G. O. Dahl.

1910—Martin Shea, A. T. Vigen, Thore Glende, George F. Freeman, G. O. Dahl.

1911—Martin Shea, A. T. Vigen, Thore Glende, Andrew Johnson, G. O. Dahl.

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1912—Martin Shea, A. T. Vigen, Thore Glende, Andrew Johnson, G. O. Dahl.

1913—F. O. Heinonen, A. T. Vigen, Thore Glende, Andrew Johnson, G. O. Dahl.

1914—F. O. Heinonen, A. T. Vigen, Thore Glende, Andrew Johnson, G. O. Dahl.

1915—F. O. Heinonen, H. C. Worden, Thore Glende, Andrew Johnson, G. O. Dahl.

COUNTY AUDITOR.

The first county auditor was appointed by the governor of the state and held until his successor was elected and qualified. The auditor acts as clerk of the board of county commissioners and in case of a tie vote is allowed to vote. Sylvester J. Whiting was appointed by the governor as the first auditor and was present at the first meeting of the board of commissioners on September 12, 1868. He was appointed to the same office by the board at its meeting on October 24, 1868, and granted a yearly salary of one hundred fifty dollars. O. Jorgens was the first elective auditor. The list of auditors from 1868 to the present time is as follows:

Sylvester J. Whiting, 1868-70; Ole Jorgens, 1870, resigned July 26, 1875; James Compton, July 26, 1875-78; B. N. Johnson, 1878-82; F. W. Burnham, 1882-84; Oscar Hanson, 1884-91; R. A. Darling, 1889-91; F. J. Pfefferle, 1891-95; H. J. Collins, 1895-99; W. C. Lincoln, 1899, died in office, February 20, 1908; William Lincoln was appointed on February 29, 1908, re-elected in the fall of the same year, and has held office continuously since by re-election.

TREASURER.

The county commissioners did not appoint a treasurer on October 24, 1868, when they selected an auditor (A. J. Whiting), sheriff (Jesse Burdock) and probate judge (Charles Sperry). Marcus Shaw was the first treasurer and evidently took the office shortly after May 20, 1869, at which time he resigned his place as a member of the board of county commissioners. He was probably elected at the October, 1868, election, although no record has been found to prove the fact. It was at Shaw's house in the village of Clitherall that the commissioners held their first meeting on September 12, 1868, Shaw being one of the three commissioners appointed by the governor to organize the county. As the first treasurer of the county, Shaw had no precedents to guide him and, to view his management of the office in the most charitable light, he failed to realize the responsibility of handling the county's money. As a result he became involved to the extent of several thousand dollars, all of which, by his own admission, he appropriated to his own use. When he realized the extent of his peculations and his inability to

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extricate himself, he placed enough of his own property in the hands of his bondsmen to cover his defalcation—and resigned. His letter to the commissioners shows that he felt disgraced by his "foolishness," as he called it.

RESIGNATION OF MARCUS SHAW

Fergus Falls, July 3, 1873.

To the Honorable Board of the Co. Commissioners:

Gentlemen: It is with a painful sense of humiliation arising from the circumstances by which I am surrounded that I tender to your Honorable body my resignation as Treasurer of the County of Otter Tail. With shame and mortification I have to confess I have used for my own benefit the public funds intrusted to my charge. It has been like as a worm eating at the carcass a little by little until I have used so much that it is beyond my power to replace, yet not thinking that I had used more than a fourth part of the amount that the settlement sheet of today shows; thus I have disgraced myself by my own foolishness. While I frankly acknowledge my error let me assure your honorable body that the county is not the loser of one dollar only for the time being, as I have placed in the hands of my bondsmen more than sufficient property to meet all demands the county have against me and while reaping no profit for my error which was more of the head than of the heart, I have more bitterly reproached myself for my weakness than your honorable body or anyone else can reproach me.

I fully recognize the fact that it is no longer fitting that I should retain the trust which I have thus betrayed or the confidence I have thus forfeited, craving your lenient judgment, asking you to bear in mind that to "err is human, to forgive divine." I remain,

Your obedient servant,

M. SHAW.

The first tax receipt issued by the treasurer was dated December 24, 1870, and was drawn in favor of Andrew Holes, who lived at that time in Stearns county. This receipt is now in the hands of C. R. Wright. The tax was on two tracts of land: (1) township 133, range 42, lots 3, 4 and 5 of section 30; lots 8 and 9 of section 31; lots 1, 2, 3 and 5 of section 22. (2) township 133, range 43, southwest half section 4 and northeast quarter section 8. The amount of tax was forty-eight dollars and seventy cents.

The receipt is in the unmistakable handwriting of M. Shaw, the first county treasurer, and on the reverse side is a statement signed by Holes that "This is the first tax receipt ever issued in Otter Tail county."

Owing to the size of Otter Tail county the collection of taxes presents a formidable problem, not only because of the large amount of money to be handled, but more so because of the great distance of a large portion of the taxpayers from the county seat. When it is taken into consideration that it is seventy-five miles from the northeastern part of the county to Fergus Falls, it may readily be seen that it would be impracticable for those living at such a distance to be compelled to make the long trip to pay their taxes. Early in the history of the county the treasurer began making trips over the county to collect taxes and this method was in use until about ten years

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ago. By that time a number of banks had been established in various parts of the county and arrangements were made with them by the county treasurer to serve as collector of taxes for those living in the immediate vicinity. At the present time every bank in the county outside of Fergus Falls collects taxes, and, in addition, there are five banks in contiguous counties which have the same privilege. The twenty-six banks in Otter Tail county acting as tax collectors are as follow: First National Bank, Henning; State Bank of Perham; J. P. Wallace State Bank, Pelican Rapids; First National Bank, Perham; First State Bank, Battle Lake; First National Bank, Deer Creek; Lund's State Bank of Vining; State Bank, Parkers Prairie; Farmers State Bank, Vergas; First National Bank, Pelican Rapids; Farmers State Bank, Henning; Merchants State Bank, Elizabeth; Farmers State Bank, Richville; Farmers State Bank, Dent; First State Bank, Dalton; First State Bank, Underwood; First National Bank, Battle Lake; First State Bank, Clitherall; Security State Bank, Otter Tail; First State Bank of New York Mills; First National Bank of Parkers Prairie; State Bank of Bluffton; Pelican Rapids State Bank; Erhard State Bank; Almora State Bank, and Farmers State Bank, Carlisle.

The five banks outside of the county are the Ferman American State Bank, Millerville; First State Bank, Ashby; Merchants National Bank, Wadena; First State Bank, Sebeka, and State Bank of Hewitt.

Each bank in the county, thirty-one in number, is a depository of county funds, receiving an amount in proportion to the capital stock and surplus. On June 22, 1915, the amount on deposit in the county banks totaled four hundred and five thousand dollars. Deposits of county funds range from two to twenty-nine thousand dollars. The banks pay the county two per cent. interest on daily balances and are allowed to loan the money on such terms and in such amounts as they see fit.

Lars Ouse was appointed by the board of commissioners on July 7, 1873, to fill the unexpired term of Shaw. The complete list of treasurers is as follows:

Marcus Shaw, 1869, resigned July 3, 1873, and Lars Ouse was appointed by the county commissioners on the same day to fill the unexpired term of Shaw, or until 1874, Alexander Norman, 1874, resigned November 10, 1874, and Hans Nelson was appointed by the county commissioners to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Nelson, or until 1883; G. A. Lindquist, 1883-91; Hans Nelson, 1891-95; Steve Butler, 1895-11; Paul A. Stortroen, 1911 to the present time.

REGISTER OF DEEDS.

The registration of Otter Tail county deeds, mortgages and other official papers, filed in the office of the register of deeds, did not begin with the

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formal organization of the county in the fall of 1868. The first volume of county deeds shows that the first one hundred and twenty-nine pages were first recorded in Douglas county, to which Otter Tail was at first attached for judicial and recording purposes. The first deed to land in Otter Tail county was on lots 3 and 10, in township 134, range 39 (now in Otter Tail township and then in Otter Tail City, the county seat). This deed, dated October 1, 1861, recorded in Douglas county on April 4, 1867, was a transfer from Abraham Myrick to Daniel Burman for a consideration of five hundred dollars. The last deed to Otter Tail county land recorded in Douglas county was dated December 7, 1870. The last mortgage recorded in Douglas county (October 22, 1870) was on section 24, township 133, range 43 (Fergus Falls township). It was made by William Lines in favor of Mike Dalton, and called for seventy-nine dollars, covering eighty acres in the section above mentioned.

Since the fall of 1870 Otter Tail county has had full charge of all the work connected with this office. The work has increased from year to year until the register is compelled to employ from two to six clerks all the time to take care of the business. Since the law has required the consecutive numbering of instruments offered for registration (1887) there have been over one hundred and fifty-three thousand instruments registered.

The best method of estimating the amount of business in this office is found by listing the different volumes of records which are used every day in the transaction of business. The casual visitor to the office is confronted by a long desk on which are seen the abstract books, twenty-eight in number. These are but a small number, however, in comparison with the volumes in the office. The following list illustrates in a striking way the size of the "library" of the register of deeds, showing the number of volumes filled with the records of each classification: Deeds, 150; mortgages, 117; chattel mortgages, 80; assignment, 22; satisfaction, 50; reception, 44; abstract books, 28; miscellaneous, 18; numerical registers, 12; plat books, 10; bond records, 11; power of attorney, 5; judgment, 3; wills and deeds, 16; total number of volumes, 566.

The registers of deeds from the time the office was established down to the present time are as follow: George W. McComber, 1868-70; J. H. Sanders, 1870-74; S. H. Nichols, 1874-76; John Gerber, 1876-78; George W. Boyington, 1878-89; Haldor E. Boen, 1889-93; Fred N. Field, 1893-99; L. A. Levorson, 1899-1907; P. A. Anderson, 1907 to the present time.

SHERIFF.

The first sheriff of Otter Tail county, Jesse Burdock, was appointed by the county commissioners on October 24, 1868, and later became the first elective holder of the office. There have been only seven different sheriffs in

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the county during its whole career of forty-eight years. The office has witnessed two legal executions during this period: Olson Holong, who was hanged April 13, 1888, for the murder of Lily Field; and Albert Goheen, who met a similar fate on October 23, 1891, for the murder of Rosa Bray.

The following men have held the office in Otter Tail county: Jesse Burdock, 1868-72; Michael Anderson, 1872-78; Gunder Bartelson, 1878-87; A. Brandenburg, 1887-91; J. S. Billings, 1891-1901; E. J. Sawyer, 1901-05; Orris Albertson, 1905-09; J. S. Billings, 1909 to the present time.

COUNTY ATTORNEY.

The first county attorney, E. E. Corliss, was elected in 1870 and he held the office by subsequent election until the first Monday in January, 1875. In the fall of 1871, John W. Mason was elected to the office, but when he presented his credentials to the commissioners of January 2, 1872, they refused to accept them. Mr. Corliss was then an incumbent of the office and maintained that he still had one year to serve. Counsel for Mason declared that inasmuch as Corliss had been elected to the Legislature in the fall of 1871, that he was not eligible to retain the office of county attorney, but the commissioners held that he was entitled to continue in the office despite the provision of the constitution to the contrary. Mr. Mason finally decided to drop the matter and not make a test case of it, and on the same date (January 2, 1872) he was appointed court commissioner by the county commissioners. The supreme court of Minnesota has since decided that Mason's contention was correct, and that under the constitution a man is ineligible to hold the office of representative and county attorney.

The complete list of county attorneys from 1870 down to the present time is as follows: E. E. Corliss, 1870-75; D. P. Hatch, 1875, resigned May 10, 1875, and J. P. Williams was appointed by the county commissioners to fill his unexpired term, or until January, 1877; Edwin M. Wright, 1877-79; E. E. Corliss, 1879-87; Charles E. Lewis, 1887-89; C. C. Houpt, 1889-91; M. J. Daly, 1891-99; C. L. Hilton, 1899-1909; Anton Thompson, 1909 to the present time.

CORONER.

The office of county coroner has usually been filled by a practicing physician, although occasionally a man has been elected to the office who has had no medical education. The first three coroners—Beardsley, Gray and Albertson—had no knowledge whatever of medicine. L. E. Davidson was editor of the *Perham Bulletin*. All the other coroners have been practicing physicians. The commissioners' records make first mention of the coroner in 1874 at which time S. H. Beardsley was filling the office. When Beardsley was elected or appointed the records fail to state.

The first volume of the coroners' records on file in the office of the

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clerk of the district court begins in May, 1887. The Legislature passed an act on March 7, 1887, providing for the preservation, recording and filing of all coroners' inquests. The first inquest on record was performed by Dr. W. C. Bedford, May 27, 1887, on the body of Arthur Wood. The coroners from 1874 to the present time are as follows: S. H. Beardsley, 1874-78; J. M. Gray, 1878-80; Orris Albertson, 1880, resigned July 26, 1880; W. C. Bedford, appointed July 26, 1880, served until 1891; L. E. Davidson, 1891; M. S. Jones, 1891; W. T. Duncan, 1892-95; M. Magelson, 1895, died in office in 1896; L. E. Davidson, 1896-99; M. S. Jones, 1899-1901; W. T. Duncan, 1901-03; C. B. Heimark, 1903-04; D. E. Seashore, 1904-05; O. M. Haugan, 1905-11; J. G. Vigen, 1911 to the present time.

SURVEYOR.

The office of county surveyor, like several others, was appointive for a number of years after the county was organized, but later the office was made elective. The first surveyor in the county according to the commissioners' records was W. H. Tull, whose bond was accepted January 2, 1872. Tull held the office until he resigned January 5, 1875, Charles J. Wright being appointed in his place. Wright was later elected and served until January, 1878. The surveyors since that date have been as follow:

E. W. Leonard, 1878-80; George A. Burbank, 1880, resigned May 1, 1882, and D. G. Keefe was appointed by the county commissioners to fill his unexpired term; Martin Aalberg, 1893-1905; O. G. Molden, 1905-15; Harry E. Aalberg, 1915 to the present time.

COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS.

The office of county superintendent of schools was first known as county examiner and as such William M. Corliss was appointed by the board of commissioners on March 20, 1869. At the next session (May 20, 1869), he was appointed "county superintendent" by the board and the office has been thus designated ever since. The office was filled by the commissioners until March 7, 1873, when it was made elective by an act of the Legislature. Newton H. Chittenden was the first superintendent elected by the qualified voters of the county. A subsequent act of the Legislature (March 1, 1876) provided that women were eligible to the office and since then no less than five women have held it, either by election or appointment as result of vacancies.

The first incumbent of the office received one hundred dollars for his first year's services, but subsequently the office paid at the rate of ten dollars for each school district. Pursuant to a resolution of the commissioners in 1881, the office was placed on an annual salary of one thousand dollars. By 1891, when the annual salary was established at fifteen hundred dollars, the office was paying eighteen hundred fifty dollars. The superintendent is

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allowed two assistants, one of whom gives most of his time to the visiting of schools. There are two hundred eighty-four school districts in the county.

The complete list of superintendents is given in the chapter on Education.

WILLIAM M. CORLISS.

William M. Corliss, the first county superintendent of schools of Otter Tail county, was born in Vermont, August 6, 1843. He came to Minnesota with his parents in May, 1856, and lived in this state from that time till his death. He enlisted June 26, 1861, in Company A, Second Minnesota Volunteer Infantry, and served three full years. After his discharge from the service, in May, 1864, he went to Edwards, New York, where he attended school for two years. Returning to Minnesota, he taught school in Winona and Fillmore counties prior to locating in Otter Tail county in 1868. He taught in this county during the winter of 1868-69 and in the spring of 1869 (March 20) he was appointed county examiner by the county commissioners. At their next session (May 20, 1869), he was appointed county superintendent. Nothing is said in the records as to why a second appointment was necessary or why the title of the office was changed. Mr. Corliss filled the office until his death, November 18, 1871. Mr. Corliss was also the first elective clerk of the district court, and was filling this position also at the time of his death.
to the present time.

DISTRICT JUDGES.

The office of district judge is a constitutional office and is not properly listed as a county office. However, it seems appropriate to list the different judges who have presided over the district of which Otter Tail county has been a part since its organization. The seventh judicial district, which includes Otter Tail county, is made up of the following counties: Benton, Douglas, Mille Lacs, Morrison, Otter Tail, Stearns, Todd, Clay, Becker and Wadena. Otter Tail county cast more than two thousand votes more for Parsons in 1912 than any other county in the district. The names of the judges follow:

Name.	Residence.	County.	Date of Commission.
James M. McKelvey	St. Cloud	Stearns	Aug. 1, 1866.
L. W. Collins	St. Cloud	Stearns	Apr. 19, 1883.
L. L. Baxter	Fergus Falls	Otter Tail	Mar. 18, 1885.
D. B. Searle	St. Cloud	Stearns	Nov. 14, 1887.
Myron D. Taylor	St. Cloud	Stearns	Dec. 1, 1906.
Carroll A. Nye	Moorhead	Clay	Jan. —, 1911.
William L. Parsons	Fergus Falls	Otter Tail	Apr. 18, 1912.
John A. Roeser	St. Cloud	Stearns	Apr. 1, 1913.

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JUDGE OF PROBATE.

The judge of probate is one of the three county officials provided for by the state constitution. The tenure of the office has always been two years, although the 1913 Legislature passed an act proposing an amendment to the constitution so as to extend the term to four years. This amendment was voted on at the November, 1914, election, but failed of adoption by a vote of 128,601 to 64,214; the vote in Otter Tail county stood 693 in favor of and 496 against the amendment. The 1915 Legislature (April 24) passed the same act and it will be voted on a second time at the November, 1916, general election. The present judge, Erick Frankberg, has held the office continuously since January, 1897. The only other county official who has approached this record for continuous service is Steve Butler, who was treasurer for sixteen years (1895-1911). Judge Frankberg has held the office despite all the various changes in the political complexion of the county, a fact which places the stamp of public approval upon the way he has conducted the affairs of the office. However, the record for actual service in any one county office belongs to Davis Burbank, who was in the office of judge of probate continuously from 1891 until a short time before his death at the age of ninety-one in February, 1912. Burbank held the judgeship four years (1891-1895) and served as clerk in the office from 1895 to 1913, making a total of twenty-one years in the office. The complete list of judges of probate follows: Charles Sperry, appointed by the county commissioners, October 24, 1868, and served until January, 1872; William Beaver, 1872-76; Ragnar Kalling, 1876 to 1880 (or 1881); J. P. Williams, 1880 (or 1881) to 1887; C. E. Chapman, 1887-91; Davis Burbank, 1891-95; Oliver Olson, 1895-97; Erick Frankberg, 1897 to the present time.

CLERK OF THE DISTRICT COURT.

The first record of the district court meeting in Otter Tail county shows that it met in Otter Tail City, on Tuesday, November 7, 1871, at the "store room of E. G. Holmes." According to the minutes of this session the following officials were present: James M. McKelvey, district judge; William M. Corliss, clerk; Marcus Shaw, deputy clerk; W. H. Beardsley, sheriff. J. W. Mason and E. E. Corliss were the only lawyers present from Otter Tail county. The only other lawyers in the county at this time were Bert Melville and N. H. Chittenden, both of Fergus Falls. However, according to the legislative act of February 16, 1871, the district court of Otter Tail county (seventh judicial district) was to meet annually thereafter on the third Tuesday in September. Why the first meeting of the court was not held until nearly two months later is not known.

It is difficult to ascertain from the records the term of the first two clerks. When the first court met at Otter Tail City on November 7, 1871,

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William M. Corliss was the clerk, but he died eleven days after this first day's session (November 18, 1871). The record of the appointment of the successor of Corliss has not been found, but it is known that W. F. Ball, then editor of the *Otter Tail City Record,* was appointed before the end of 1871 to fill the unexpired term of Corliss. Ball continued in the office until after the election of 1872, at which time Sam H. Nichols was elected.

The complete list of clerks from 1872 to the present time follows: Sam H. Nichols, 1872-76; John Schroeder, 1876-84; Charles J. Wright, 1884-89; L. A. Leverson, 1889-93; C. F. Hanson, 1893-1903; Jason T. Kidder, 1903, died November 27, 1911. Kidder fell dead at noon on Mill street in Fergus Falls. Court was in session at the time and immediately after the noon hour Judge Searle adjourned court after requesting the bar to meet and recommond at once a successor to Kidder. The bar followed the instructions of the judge and recomended George H. Gard, who was appointed the following day by the court. Mr. Gard was elected at the next regular election and is now filling the office.

PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS.

With the presidential election of 1916 Otter Tail county will have seen the election of thirteen Presidents, from Grant in 1868 to the successful candidate in 1916. For these Presidents Otter Tail county has carried a Democratic majority but once—in 1896; all the other years have been Republican majorities with the exception of 1912, when it was carried by the Progressive party. If the county voted for President in 1868 the record of the vote has not been preserved. Since the county was formally organized on September 12 of that year, it seems probable that it voted, although no record of the vote has been found. The tabulated vote for 1872 has not been seen, but it is certain that the county voted for the Republican candidates.

In 1876 the vote for president stood as follows: Hayes, 1,629; Tilden, 462. At this same election the county gave J. H. Stewart, Republican, 1,380 votes, and W. W. McNair, Democrat, 694 votes.

The Democratic candidate for President did not receive a single vote in the following townships in this county: Throndhjem, Norwegian Grove, Eagle Lake, Maine, Aastad; and only one in Tumuli, four in St. Olaf, two in Oscar, seven in Pelican, two in Aurdal, four in Dane Prairie, two in Fergus Falls (town), four in Clitherall and two in Eastern.

In 1880 Otter Tail county gave Garfield, Republican, 2,628 votes, and Hancock, Democrat, 772 votes. The vote for congressman was as follows: Washburn, Republican, 2,355; Sibley, Democrat, 1,041.

In 1884 the presidential vote was divided between the two leading candidates as follows: Blaine, Republican, 3,425; Cleveland, Democrat, 1,511.

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In 1888 Harrison, Republican, received 3,874 votes and Cleveland, 1,770 votes.

In 1892 the vote of Otter Tail county for President was divided among four candidates as follows: Harrison, Republican, 2,140; Cleveland, Democrat, 1,642; Bidwell, Prohibition, 474; Weaver, Populist, 1,466.

The election of 1896 has been the only one in the county in which a Democratic candidate for President has gained a majority, the result that year being as follows: McKinley, Republican, 3,544; Bryan, Democrat, 4,482; Levering, Prohibition, 162; Palmer, Gold Democrat, 76.

The presidential election of 1900 showed a loss of more than one thousand votes for Bryan, his vote dropping to 3,257; McKinley received 3,446, and Wooley, 440.

In 1904 Otter Tail county distributed its votes for President among five candidates, as follows: Roosevelt, Republican, 4,624; Parker, Democrat, 869; Swallow, Prohibition, 278; Debs, Socialist, 367; Watson, Populist, 96.

In 1908 Taft carried the county with a vote of 3,964; Bryan received 2,320 votes; Chafin, 321; Debs, 208; Hisgen, 5.

In 1912 Roosevelt, candidate of the Progressive party, carried the county with a vote of 3,061; Wilson received 1,739 votes, and Taft only 756.

OTTER TAIL COUNTY IN THE LEGISLATURE.

The first mention of Otter Tail county in acts of the Legislature defining legislative districts was in 1860, when it was placed in the third district with Stearns, Todd, Cass, Wadena, Toombs, Polk, Breckenridge, Douglas, Becker, Pembina, Morrison, Crow, Wing, Aitkin, Aitkin, Itasca, Buchanan, Carlton, St. Louis and Lake. It is purely conjectural whether the settlers of Otter Tail county voted for members of the Legislature in 1860. If they did, no record is preserved of the vote; nor is there a record of any vote in the county prior to 1868. The Legislature of 1866 reorganized the third legislative district, but left Otter Tail county in it.

The first Legislature in which Otter Tail county has any particular interest was that of 1868, the tenth session. It was this session which passed the act organizing the county. At that time C. A. Gilman was in the Senate and D. G. Pettijohn and N. H. Miller in the House, representing the third district.

Eleventh Legislature.

The eleventh session of the Legislature met January 5 and adjourned March 5, 1869. C. A. Gilman of St. Cloud again represented the third district in the Senate and Ludwig Robbers and William E. Hicks sat in the House.

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Twelfth Legislature.

The twelfth Legislature convened January 4, and adjourned March 4, 1870. H. C. Wait of Todd county sat in the Senate; John L. Wilson and Isaac Thorson were in the House.

Thirteenth Legislature.

The thirteenth Legislature met January 8, and adjourned March 3, 1871. Wait was again in the Senate, but the House had two new representatives from the third district, W. S. Moore and Luke Marvin. This session of the Legislature redistricted the state for legislative purposes and placed Otter Tail county in the forty-first district with Wilkin, Wadena, Todd, Beltrami, Polk, Clay, Becker, Travers and Pembina. The apportionment gave to the district one senator and two representatives.

Fourteenth Legislature.

The fourteenth Legislature was the first one to have a representative of Otter Tail county as a member. John O. Milne of Todd county was in the Senate; E. E. Corliss, of Otter Tail, and L. S. Cravath, were in the House. This session convened January 2, and adjourned March 1, 1872.

Fifteenth Legislature.

The forty-first district was represented in the fifteenth Legislature, which met January 7, and adjourned March 7, 1873, by John G. Nelson, of Otter Tail county, senator; and J. V. Brower, of Todd county, and William Felton, of Wilkin county, representatives.

Sixteenth Legislature.

Senator J. G. Nelson was a holdover representative in the Senate for the forty-first district, in the Legislature which met January 6, and adjourned March 6, 1874. J. W. Mason, of Otter Tail county, and C. B. Jordan, of Wadena county, were elected as representatives in the lower House in that session.

Seventeenth Legislature.

In the Legislature which assembled January 5, and adjourned March 5, 1875, the representative in the Senate from this district was H. G. Page; in the House, Soren Listoe, of Wilkin county, and R. L. Frazee, of Becker county.

Eighteenth Legislature.

Senator H. G. Page continued as the representative from this district in the Senate, in the eighteenth Legislature, which assembled January 4, and adjourned March 3, 1876. S. D. Comstock, of Clay, and John Wait, of Todd county, were the representatives in the lower House.

Nineteenth Legislature.

In the nineteenth Legislature, which assembled January 2, and adjourned

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March 2, 1877, this district was again represented in the Senate by H. G. Page. S. D. Comstock had been re-elected, and, with A. McCrea, of Otter Tail, represented the forty-first district in the lower House.

Twentieth Legislature.

Senator H. G. Page served the last year of his second term in the Senate of the twentieth Legislature, which met January 8, and adjourned March 8, 1878. Andrew McCrea was re-elected as representative from the forty-first district, and, with Theodore Holton, served as member of the lower House.

Twenty-first Legislature.

The twenty-first Legislature assembled January 7, and adjourned March 7, 1879. Andrew McCrea, who had served two terms in the lower House, was elected as senator from the forty-first district and served his first year as a member of the Senate in this Assembly. S. G. Comstock's name again appears as one of the representatives from the forty-first district. The other representative was Michael Anderson, of Otter Tail county. An amendment to the constitution, adopted in 1877, provided for biennial sessions of the Legislature.

Twenty-second Legislature.

Senator Andrew McCrea served his second year as a member of the Senate in the twenty-second Legislature, which assembled January 4, and adjourned March 4, 1881. S. G. Comstock was re-elected as representative; B. Sampson was the other representative from this district. These representatives also served in the extra session of this Legislature which was called for the purpose of considering the legislation at the regular session, relating to the state railroad bonds. This extra session met October 11, and continued until November 13, 1881, and passed an act for the adjustment of the Minnesota state railroad bonds.

At the regular session, 1881, a new apportionment was made by which six new legislative districts in the state were created. The population of Otter Tail county had increased to such an extent by this time that it was entitled to the same representation in the Legislature that had up to this time been accorded the joint representation of ten counties. By this apportionment Otter Tail county is made the forty-third district, with one senator and two representatives.

Twenty-third Legislature.

The twenty-third Legislature assembled January 2, and adjourned March 2, 1883. James Compton had the honor of being the first senator elected from the new legislative district composed of Otter Tail county. A like honor was conferred upon J. G. Nelson and J. H. Gray, who were the first representatives elected from this new district.

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Twenty-fourth Legislature.

Senator James Compton served the latter part of his term as a member of the twenty-fourth Legislature, which met January 6 and adjourned March 6, 1885. The representatives from Otter Tail county in this session were Washington Muzzy and Hans P. Bjorge.

Twenty-fifth Legislature.

James Compton was re-elected and began his second term as a member of the senate in the Legislature which assembled January 4, 1887. Hans P. Bjorge was also re-elected to this body as one of the representatives from Otter Tail county. The other representative was Henry Plowman.

Twenty-sixth Legislature.

The twenty-sixth legislature met January 8 and continued in session until April 23, 1889. At this session Otter Tail county was represented in the Senate by James Compton, and in the lower House by John B. Hompe and Jens C. Dunham.

At this session of the Legislature another apportionment was made by which seven additional legislative districts were created in the state. Otter Tail county was designated as the forty-eighth legislative district and given two additional representatives. Since that time the representation in this county has been one senator and four representatives.

Twency-seventh Legislature.

The twenty-seventh Legislature assembled January 6, and adjourned April 20, 1891. John B. Hompe represented Otter Tail county in the Senate at this session; H. P. Bjorge, A. O. Richardson, S. H. Ongstad and Thomas Cole were representatives of the county in the lower House.

Twenty-eighth Legislature.

The twenty-eighth Legislature assembled January 3, and adjourned April 18, 1893. Otter Tail county had the same persons as representatives in this as in the preceding Legislature, namely, Senator John B. Hompe, Representathives H. P. Bjordg, A. O. Richardson, S. H. Ongstad and Thomas Cole.

Twenty-ninth Legislature.

The twenty-ninth Legislature assembled January 8, and adjourned April 23, 1895. Dr. A. B. Cole was the senator from Otter Tail county; E. A. Bickford, H. Mickleson, A. T. Vigen and A. O. Richardson were representatives from this county.

Thirtieth Legislature.

The thirtieth Legislature assembled January 5, and adjourned April 21, 1897. Representatives from Ottter Tail county in this assembly were A. B. Cole, in the Senate, and John O. Emerson, A. T. Vigen, T. H. Froslee and Knud Pederson in the lower House.

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A new apportionment was made by this Legislature by which nine additional legislative districts were created in the state. Under this apportionment Otter Tail county was designated as the fifty-ninth legislative district. The representation still remained, one senator and four representatives.

Thirty-first Legislature.

The thirty-first Legislature assembled January 3, and adjourned April 18, 1899. At this session Otter Tail county was represented in the Senate by M. J. Daly; in the lower House by Knud Pederson, Henry Plowman, E. C. Weston and C. N. Haugen.

Thirty-second Legislature.

The thirty-second Legislature assembled January 8, adjourned April 12, 1901. At this session Otter Tail county was represented in the Senate by M. J. Daly, and in the lower House by C. N. Haugen, Henry Plowman, S. D. Rider and Ole Sageng.

Thirty-third Legislature.

The thirty-third Legislature assembled January 6, 1903. The name of A. B. Cole appears again as senator from Otter Tail county in this Assembly. Representatives from the county in the lower House were C. N. Haugen, M. Walz, Knud W. Bondy and M. S. Jones.

Thirty-fourth Legislature.

The thirty-fourth Legislature assembled January 3, 1905. Otter Tail county is represented in the Senate by A. B. Cole; in the lower House by C. N. Haugen, H. T. Hille, Knud W. Bondy and Elmer E. Adams.

Thirty-fifth Legislature.

The thirty-fifth Legislature assembled January 8, 1907. At this session Otter Tail county is represented in the Senate by Ole O. Sageng; in the lower House by Charles L. Alexander, J. T. Johnson, Michael Walz and Elmer E. Adams.

Thirty-sixth Legislature.

The thirty-sixth Legislature assembled January 25, 1909. Otter Tail county is represented in the Senate by Ole O. Sageng; in the lower House by J. T. Johnson, Elmer E. Adams, C. J. Wright and H. A. Putnam.

Thirty-seventh Legislature.

The thirty-seventh Legislature assembled January 3, and adjourned April 19, 1911. Ole O. Sageng continues as a member of the Senate. The members of the lower House from Otter Tail county at this session were J. T. Johnson, H. A. Putnam, Alex Nelson and R. J. Lindberg.

Thirty-eighth Legislature.

The thirty-eighth Legislature assembled January 7, and adjourned April 24, 1913. Otter Tail county is represented in the Senate by Ole O. Sageng,

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and in the lower House by G. T. Braatellen, J. T. Johnson, R. J. Lindberg and H. A. Putnam.

At this session of the Legislature another apportionment is made by which four additional representative districts are created in the state. Under this apportionment Otter Tail county is made the fiftieth legislative district, instead of the fifty-ninth, under the former apportionment. The representation remains the same—one senator and four representatives.

Thirty-ninth Legislature.

The thirty-ninth Legislature assembled January 5, 1915. Ole O. Sageng continues as the member of the Senate from Otter Tail county under the new apportionment. The representatives from this county are Elmer E. Adams, John B. Hompe, H. A. Putnam and J. T. Johnson. These were all elected at the general election, 1914.

STATE AND NATIONAL OFFICIALS FROM OTTER TAIL COUNTY.

There have been several citizens of Otter Tail county who have at various times held state offices and at least one lawyer of the county has gone to Washington as a United States senator. Moses E. Clapp was attorney-general of the state from 1887 to 1893, while he has been a member of the United States Senate since January 23, 1901. His present term expires March 4, 1917. Another lawyer of Fergus Falls to become attorney-general of the state is A. W. Childs, who was an incumbent of the office from 1893 to 1899. Clifford L. Hilton, former county attorney of Otter Tail county, is now first assistant to the attorney-general of the state. John P. Williams, another former county attorney, was on the railroad commission from 1889 to 1891. Ole P. B. Jacobson, former editor of the *Ugeblad* and still president of the Ugeblad Printing Company, served as a member of the board of grain appeal from August 1, 1911, to May 1, 1914. On the latter date he became, by appointment, a member of the railroad commission. In the fall of the same year he was elected as one of the three members of the commission. This office has a tenure of six years, with an annual salary of four thousand and five hundred dollars. Fergus Falls has furnished two district judges, L. L. Baxter, 1885-1911, and W. L. Parsons, since April 13, 1913. C. D. Wright and John W. Mason have both served as members of the board for the Fergus Falls state hospital for the insane. Haldor E. Boen, later editor of the *Fergus Globe*, was a Populist member of Congress from 1893 to 1895. Charles C. Houpt was United States district attorney from 1906 to 1914.

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CHAPTER VII.

LEGISLATIVE ACTS BEARING ON OTTER TAIL COUNTY.

The first act of the Legislature of Minnesota bearing on Otter Tail county was passed on March 18, 1858. Minnesota was still a territory, and it was not until later in the same year that it was admitted to the Union. From 1858 until 1891 there were both general and special acts of the Legislature, and during this period some very peculiar acts found their way through the mysterious mazes of the legislative halls. It seems queer to note that the Legislature saw fit to pass an act more than forty years ago making it unlawful for pigs to run at large in Scambler township, and this same act made no specific mention of any other pigs in any other county of the state. If Fergus Falls wanted to gravel any particular alley in the village it took a special act of the Legislature to get it done. Numerous other instances might be cited to show how ridiculous some of this special legislation appeared when it got on the statute books.

The state was burdened with this kind of legislation until 1891. The legislative act of April 15, 1891, proposed an amendment to section 33, article 4, of the Constitution, which was to provide for the abolishment of special legislation. This amendment was submitted to the qualified voters of the state on November 8, 1892, and adopted by a vote of 77,614 to 49,583. The amendment was declared in force when the governor issued a proclamation on December 23, 1892, declaring that it had been ratified by the qualified electors of the state. Since that date there has been very little legislation bearing upon Otter Tail county except for highways. The following summary gives both the special and general acts of the Legislature which have had to do one way or another with the history of Otter Tail county:

1858.

March 18.—To organize the county. This act is the only one passed by the territorial Legislature touching the county.

1860.

March 10.—To change the boundaries of the county. Owing to the fact that no election was held, the act did not become a law.

1861.

March 8.—To define the boundaries of the county. Evidently no definite action was taken as a result of the passage of this act.

1862.

March 6.—This act established the boundaries of the county as set

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forth in the acts of March 10, 1860, and March 8, 1861. The act in its preamble states that the validity of the acts of 1860 and 1861 depended "upon proclamation by the governor of their adoption by a majority of the electors of the county." However, as the act goes on to state, "no certified statement of such votes has been filed in the office of the secretary of state," and since no proof existed that the county was organized, the Legislature felt it necessary to definitely set forth the boundaries of the county. It is to be noted that there seemed to have been a vote in 1860, although definite proof of the result was lacking. In the preamble to the act of 1862 "it is affirmed and understood that the act of 1860 was adopted by the people in the manner required." If such was the case there is no record of the vote and it was to legalize the boundaries of the county as set forth in the acts of 1860 and 1861 that the act of March 6, 1862, was passed.

1868.

March 16.—To organize the county. This act specifically provided for the appointment of commissioners by the governor, and as a result the county started its career with the first meeting of the commissioners on September 12, 1868.

1870.

February 28.—To establish the county seat at Tordenskjold.

March 5.—To authorize townships and villages in Otter Tail county to issue bonds to aid railroads.

1871.

February 16.—To establish the third Tuesday in November for holding district court in Otter Tail county.

February 16.—To repeal the act making Tordenskjold the county seat and re-establishing it at Otter Tail City.

February 16.—To authorize the county commissioners to issue bonds not to exceed $2,000 for the purpose of funding the floating debt of the county.

March 4.—To establish a new county by the name of Holcomb, with Fergus Falls as the county seat.

1872.

February 28.—To detach range 44 from Wilkin county and attach it to Otter Tail county.

February 28.—To establish the county seat of Otter Tail county at Fergus Falls.

February 29.—To grant a charter to Fergus Falls, incorporating it as a village.

February 29.—To attach Wilkin county to Otter Tail county for judicial and recording purposes.

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1873.

March 1.—To change the name of Jasper townshop to Parkers Prairie township.

March 4.—To amend the charter of Fergus Falls.

March 6.—To allow county to aid in the construction of railroads.

March 10.—To detach certain townships on the eastern side of Otter Tail county and attach them to Wadena county.

1875.

February 3.—A resolution asking Congress to survey the Red river from Perham to Fergus Falls, with a view of making it navigable.

February 24.—An act to make unlawful for swine to run at large in "the town of Scambler, in Otter Tail county, and towns adjoining thereto."

February 24.—An act authorizing the holding of district court in Otter Tail county on the second Tuesday of November annually.

March 5.—An act to appropriate six hundred and twenty dollars to R. L. Frazee for expenses in contesting the seat of E. B. Chambers in the House of Representatives. Frazee was seated.

March 8.—An act to appropriate $482.50 to E. B. Chambers for expenses in contesting the seat of R. L. Frazee.

March 8.—To authorize the auditor of Otter Tail county to canvass the vote of the forty-first district for members of the state Legislature.

March 9.—To authorize the commissioners of Otter Tail county to remit all costs, penalties and interests on taxes on residents of the county whose crops were destroyed by grasshoppers in 1874.

1876.

February 17.—An act authorizing the holding of district court in Otter Tail county on the third Tuesday of November and third Tuesday of May in each year.

March 1.—To authorize the register of deeds of Otter Tail county to transcribe all records in the register of deeds' office in Douglas county which pertained to Otter Tail county.

1877.

February 15.—To prohibit the use of seine or trap to catch fish in Zumbro river.

February 15.—To authorize county commissioners to issue six thousand dollars in bonds for purpose of erecting county buildings.

March 1.—Marion township changed to Perham.

March 5.—To amend act of 1875 relating to beasts roaming at large.

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1878.

February 7.—To change the name of the village of Hazel Dell to Parkdale.

March 12.—To grant swamp lands in Otter Tail county to aid in the construction of the Northern Pacific railroad.

1879.

February 14.—To amend charter of Fergus Falls.

February 14.—To legalize the action of the county commissioners in levying a one-mill tax for the purpose of building a court house.

February 14.—To legalize all roads surveyed in Otter Tail county.

February 21.—To authorize Otter Tail county to issue bonds to aid in construction of Minnesota Northern railroad.

February 28.—To amend charter of Fergus Falls.

February 28.—To authorize Fergus Falls to procure right of way and depot grounds for railroad by taxation or issue of bonds.

March 6.—To locate road from Fergus Falls to Herman in Grant county. G. O. Dahl was the commissioner on behalf of Otter Tail county.

1881.

February 14.—To incorporate the village of Perham.

March 3.—Fergus Falls incorporated as a city.

November 22.—To authorize county commissioners to allow the auditor clerk hire not to exceed fifteen hundred dollars.

1883.

February 24.—To authorize the lowering of Dead lake in Otter Tail county.

March 6.—Four separate acts passed providing for as many different bridges in Otter Tail county, carrying a total appropriation of three thousand five hundred dollars.

March 6.—New Fergus Falls charter.

1885.

January 28.—To authorize county commissioners to allow the county attorney an annual salary not to exceed two thousand dollars.

February 10.—To amend act of 1878 relating to county commissioners.

February 24.—To authorize county commissioners to issue thirty thousand dollars in bonds for the construction of jail.

February 24.—Gas and Mill Company of Fergus Falls confirmed in their right to construct, maintain and operate a gas plant.

February 28.—To establish time of holding district court in Otter Tail county (first Monday of May and second Monday of November).

March 4.—To amend Fergus Falls charter provided by act of March 6, 1883.

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February 5.—To amend act of 1881 and to allow county commissions to draw pay for not more than fifty days in one year.

February 10.—County treasurer to expend not more than twelve hundred dollars annually for clerk hire and expenses in visiting towns in county to collect personal property tax.

March 5.—Term of district court of Otter Tail county, third Monday in May and second Monday in November.

March 9.—To appropriate fifteen hundred dollars to build bridges and roads in Otter Tail county.

March 9.—To appropriate five hundred dollars to aid Fergus Falls in grading Union avenue between Rose and Beach avenues.

1887.

March 3.—To provide for adjourned terms of the district court of Otter Tail county to be held at village of Perham.

1889.

January 30.—Fergus Falls charter amended so as to give the council power to appropriate money to develop the water power of Red river.

February 1.—To set time for holding commissioners' meetings.

March 7.—Perham to vote on school bonds.

March 15.—Fergus Falls charter amended as regards assessing of the city.

March 15.—To divide the first ward of Fergus Falls into two wards.

March 19.—Prohibiting catching of any fish except sturgeon in any other manner than by hook and line.

March 28.—To set second Monday in May and second Monday in November for holding district court of Otter Tail county.

April 3.—County poor relief eight dollars per month allowed indigent families.

April 15.—School district No. 131 to issue bonds to fund floating indebtedness.

April 22.—To regulate the running at large of domestic animals in Otter Tail county.

1891.

March 11.—To allow the village of Perham to elect an assessor.

April 6.—To establish salaries for all county officials of Otter Tail county.

April 9.—To authorize the village of Elizabeth to separate from the township.

April 21.—To appropriate five hundred dollars for bridge over Red river in Aurdal township.

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1897.

April 9.—To appropriate eight hundred and fifty dollars for roads and bridges in Otter Tail county.

April 14.—To allow Otter Tail county one senator and four representatives in the state Legislature.

1909.

April 23.—To authorize establishment of tuberculosis sanatoria in the various counties of the state. The present sanatorium in Otter Tail county was built pursuant to this act.

1913.

April 23.—To extend terms of all county officials to four years (applied to all counties in the state).

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CHAPTER VIII.

THE TOWNSHIPS OF OTTER TAIL COUNTY, 1868-69.

The first township organized in Otter Tail county was Clitherall, which was established as an independent political entity by the county commissioners on October 24, 1868. The sixty-second and last township to be organized was Dead Lake, which did not come into existence until nearly thirty years after the first township was created (March 24, 1897). In every case the civil townships have coincided in size with the congressional townships, although in many instances congressional townships have been temporarily added, or rather attached, to organized townships for civil and criminal jurisdiction. According to statute, congressional townships might be organized into civil townships when the territory in question had a minimum of twenty-five qualified voters. Upon a petition of a majority of the twenty-five voters to the county commissioners that body was authorized to order an election for township officials, who, in turn, were to organize the township.

A study of the growth of Otter Tail county shows that townships were settled in groups. Half of the townships were created by 1875, Eastern, the last organized in 1875, being the thirty-second to be organized. At least one township was organized every year from 1868 to 1886 with the exception of two years, 1876 and 1885. As might be expected, the different nationalities settled in the same community and for many years after the county was settled there were at least four different languages in as many different parts of the county, namely: Norwegian, Swedish, German and English—and the latter was not in the majority.

In the naming of so many townships the commissioners seemed to have experienced difficulty in getting a variety of names. The use of the same name for a lake, township and village is sometimes confusing, as in the case of the village of Otter Tail City, which was in a township, county, and near a river and lake of the same name. Such names as St. Olaf, Tordenskjold, Aurdal, Aastad, Nidaros, Norwegian Grove, Oscar, Trondhjem, Sverdrup and Amor bear ample witness to the Scandinavian population of the county. Long before woman's suffrage became the issue it is today there was a mania for naming townships in Otter Tail county after women. How many romances are behind such names as Elizabeth, Lida, Dora and Edna will probably never be known, but it is a safe conjecture that the fine hand of some woman is responsible for these feminine-named townships. The names of lakes have been given to several townships, as may be seen in Pine Lake,

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Star Lake, Rush Lake, Battle Lake, Eagle Lake, Leaf Lake and Dead Lake. The topography of some townships was evidently responsible for their names, and the townships of Leaf Mountain, Maplewood, Woodside, Oak Valley, Parkers Prairie, Dane Prairie and Norwegian Grove. The names of some townships would lead one to think that names were scarce, or at least that no one was able to get a name which was satisfactory—witness such names as Western, Eastern and Homestead. Many townships of the county were named after some sterling old settler, or, at least, a settler who was influential enough with the commissioners to induce them to name one after him. In some cases, if tradition is to be believed, ambitious settlers used undue influence in order to get townships named after them. A few county commissioners have succeeded in getting their names perpetuated by having them given to townships and still others tried to do so, but failed. The names of such old settlers as Ernest Buse, Steve Butler, James Compton, E. E. Corliss, George W. Dunn, Peter Erhard, E. A. Everts, Captain Inman, Robert Scambler and several others are well worthy of having their names recorded on the map of the county which they helped to settle. Major George W. Clitherall, register of the land office, and stationed at Otter Tail City for a time in the latter part of the fifties, left his name on a lake, township and village. The township of Maine was named by R. F. Adley, one of the first settlers, and a native of the state of Maine.

Another interesting feature of the naming of the townships of the county is the fact that so many of them changed their names. How many people of the county ever heard of the townships of Union, Oxford, Grant, Cuba, Arlington, Dovre Fjeld, St. Agnes, Liberty, Christiania, Jasper, Blooming Grove, Norman or East Battle Lake, and yet all of these names have been applied to townships in Otter Tail county in the past. Many efforts have been made to change the names of townships at various times, but the commissioners have usually frowned on making any changes.

The discussion of the townships of Otter Tail county as given in succeeding chapters is necessarily brief. The organization of the townships is given in the records of the commissioners, but in no instance do the records give the names of the voters petitioning for the organization. The original petitions for the first ten years (1868-78) are tied up with all the other commissioners' records in two large packages. Since 1878 the commissioners' records have been kept in filing cases and are easily accessible. In two or three townships the petitioning papers were not found, and in those instances the names of the early settlers were taken from the tax duplicates of the year the townships were organized. The churches, schools, banks, newspapers and lodges of the various townships, including the villages within them, are discussed in separate chapters. The townships in this and succeeding chap-

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ters (VIII-XV) are grouped in the order of their organization. The appended list has been carefully compiled from the original records and the townships are discussed as they appear below. Several townships had more than one name, but, as will be noticed, only the first name is given. The list follows:

TOWNSHIPS OF OTTER TRAIL COUNTY ARRANGED CHRONOLOGICALLY

Organization, present name and first name were as follows:

1868, October 24—Clitherall.

1869, March 20—St. Olaf (Oxford until May 10, 1870); September 8, Tumuli (Union until May 10, 1870); September 8, Tordenskjold (Blooming Grove until May 10, 1870); October 9, Aurdal.

1870, January 4—Parkers Prairie (Jasper until March 1, 1873); May 10, Dane Prairie; June 29, Fergus Falls; September 5, Eagle Lake; September 5, Elizabeth; September 5, Otter Tail; September 5, Pelican; September 24, Erhards Grove; October 3, Buse.

1871, January 3—Rush Lake; March 4, Aastad; July 10, Hobart (Rose Lake until September 5, 1871); August 8, Scambler; September 5, Maine; September 5, Nidraos.

1872, March 19—Perham (Marion Lake until March 1, 1877); March 21, Effingham (Arlington until July 17, 1872).

1873, January 7—Norwegian Grove; January 7, Western; July 1, Deer Creek; July 1, Oscar (Christiania until September 4, 1873); July 7, Trondhjem; September 4, Gorman (Nashville until January 7, 1874).

1874, January 7—Leaf Mountain (Dovre Fjeld until March 18, 1874); January 6, Friberg (Florence until March 18, 1874).

1875, May 10—Compton (Grant until July 29, 1875); July 29, Eastern.

1876—None organized.

1877, January 2—Oak Valley; January 2, Woodside (Wrightstown until March 22, 1877); March 22, Newton (New York Mills until July 26, 1883.)

1878, March 18—Sverdrup (Norman until July 17, 1878); March 18, Inman; July 17, Henning (East Battle Lake until August 1, 1884); July 17, Bluffton.

1879, March 18—Lida; March 19, Amor; July 22, Dora; July 22, Everts; July 22, Leaf Lake.

1880, January 18—Candor; January 18, Star Lake; March 16, Elmo; March 16, Dunn; July 26, Maplewood (St. Agnes until May 2, 1882); July 26, Homestead (Runyon).

1881, February 24—Carlisle; February 24, Folden.

1882, March 21—Edna (Cuba until May 2, 1882); March 21, Girard; March 21, Paddock.

1883, January 5—Pine Lake; March 22, Otter; July 26, Butler.

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1884, January 3—Corliss; March 20, Blowers.
1886, July 27—Orwell (Liberty until November 3, 1886).
1897, March 24—Dead Lake.

CLITHERALL TOWNSHIP.

The first and, in many ways, the most interesting settlement made in Otter Tail county was that known as the Mormon settlement, near Clitherall lake, in what was later included in Clitherall township. This settlement was made in 1865 by a little band of Mormons from Iowa. The violent breaking up of Brigham Young's church at Nauvoo, Illinois, had scattered the adherents of that faith in search for a more safe and pleasant abiding place. The greater part of the band journeyed toward the far West, making temporary stops in Iowa and other parts of the country, in search of a desirable habitation. It was in May, 1865, when a little band of this wandering tribe, composed of seven families, left the main body and turned their faces toward the Northwest. They had heard of the beautiful prairies and fertile lands of Minnesota and they determined to find a location and found a colony in this state.

It was a long journey and many hardships were endured. There were also many discouragements and friendly warnings from the less adventurous settlers whom they met on the way. This was but a few years after the Sioux Indian war, when many white inhabitants had been killed or driven in terror from the state. The settlers who had ventured to return were still in a state of dread, apprehensive of another outbreak of the savages who were roaming through the country. But this little band of brave and courageous Mormons disregarded the friendly warnings of settlers whom they passed on their journey. They found a delightful location bordering on this beautiful lake and there they encamped, taking possession of lands in the midst of the half-savage redmen, and in the heart of their choicest hunting and fishing grounds.

In the following month of August they were joined by ten families from Crow Wing, their old friends and neighbors of the same faith. They located their homesteads, each with a frontage of forty rods on the lake, and gave their attention to farming and stock raising. They endeavored to be independent and self-supporting, manufacturing most of their agricultural machinery, and most of their household furniture. By treating the Indians humanely and kindly, aiding the deserving and firmly refusing assistance to the unworthy, and by means of friendly councils with the chiefs, they were able to live in peace with their half-savage neighbors. Industrious, temperate and law-abiding, this little pioneer band of Mormons enjoyed the fruits of right living, increasing in flocks and herds and in the abundant products of cultivated lands. The knowledge of the success and prosperity of this

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little community spread abroad and brought other settlers into this section, and the population of what is now Clitherall township increased more rapidly than any other part of the county.

Organization of Clitherall Township.

The township took its name from the lake of that name, and the lake took its name from Major George B. Clitherall, who was register of the United States land office at Otter Tail City from 1858 to 1861. Whether Clitherall saw it first and honored himself by giving his name to this beautiful lake, or whether somebody else conceived the idea of doing him this honor, is not a matter of record. It is a matter of record that, a few years later, Clitherall emulated the example of several others connected with Buchanan's administration by aiding the cause of the Southern Confederacy.

Clitherall was one of the three townships first organized in Otter Tail county; according to the records it was undoubtedly the first township to have a separate existence. At an extra session of the county commissioners, October 24, 1868, a petition was presented asking for the organization of township 132, range 40, by attaching township 133, in ranges 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, and township 132, range 41, to be known by the name of Clitherall. The record fails to state whether the petition was granted, but it evidently was, since, at the March session of the board of commissioners, 1869, the township Clitherall was mentioned in such a way as to make it certain that it was a political entity. The petition of October 24, 1868, carried the following names: S. J. Whiting, C. Whiting, C. Sperry, Joseph Fletcher, F. L. Whiting, L. Fletcher, Leyman Murdock, Isaac Whiting, Hyrum Murdock, Thomas Mason, Marcus Shaw, C. G. Fletcher and J. Burdick.

Character and Faith of These Pioneer Settlers.

It will be of interest in this connection to give a brief statement regarding the character and religious belief of this community of Mormons who founded a colony in Otter Tail county, braving the dangers and enduring the privations incident to early times, and who have contributed so large a part in the development and civilization of the county. The material facts upon which this statement is founded are obtained from an article in the *Fergus Falls Journal*, June 23, 1876, written by Chancy Whiting, the leader of the Mormon colony at that time.

It is stated in that article that, although this colony accepted the Mormon faith and doctrine as taught in the Book of Mormon, and the doctrines and covenants by Joseph Smith, they do not believe in nor practice polygamy, but denounce the ultra-polygamists as having grossly violated the teachings of their founder, and having gone utterly astray after strange gods. They also hold the Christian Bible to be equally sacred with the Mormon Book, and contend that there is no variance nor contradiction between these two

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books. Their belief is that the latter contains a fuller and later revelation of God's will concerning men. These people are intensely spiritual, with unlimited faith in God's promises, believing that He bestoweth the gift of prophecy upon man now, as well as of old; that He gives them power to work miracles and to heal the sick by the laying on of hands, as it was given to the disciples in the time of our Savior. They also believe in baptism by immersion and in the sacrament of the Lord's Supper. In government the church is republican, electing its own leader, council and trustees by ballot or standing vote, and removing them if desired in the same manner.

This colony has prospered to the extent of enjoying without molestation their peculiar religious belief; of earning by honest labor a comfortable living; maintaining good schools and stated religious worship, both public and around their firesides. In this latter respect, especially, they put to shame many of other religious beliefs who are wont to denounce the Mormons. Judged by their fruits, these people are deserving, at least, of our respectful consideration and commendation. Possessing but a moderate worldly ambition, not proselyting in spirit, they have sought rather to dwell together in unity and simplicity than to grow in riches and numerical strength and power as a community.

It was the practice of this community to so distribute the returns of the harvest and the increase of the flocks that the poorest and most unfortunate among them should never want for the common necessities and comforts of life. Governed by this practice and controlled by a sentiment of unity and harmony, living for the most part in humble and homely log cabins, with few of what are called the luxuries of life, living without strife or contention or threatening ambition, this little Mormon colony planted by Lake Clitherall in 1865 has been recognized as the model community of Otter Tail county.

The present township officers are as follow: Supervisors, William Lundstrom and T. Moher; clerk, E. N. Swenson; treasurer, Christ Jenson; assessor, John J. Franze; justice, E. K. Evanson and T. S. Mokley; constables, Nels Scott and Frank Nelson.

ST. OLAF TOWNSHIP

St. Olaf township (township 132, range 41) was organized by the commissioners on March 20, 1869, in response to a petition signed by the following legal voters residing in the proposed township: Michael Caldwell, Frank Caldwell, William Martin, S. A. Wolcott, Edward J. Lacy, Theodore Anderson, Peder S. Penn, Jacob Turtlson, Lewis Anderson, Andrew Lewison, Andrew R. Roberts, Frank Demoss, Alick Johnson, Erick Erickson, Carl Blyberg, Mons Bothun, Thomas H. Birge, J. E. Lacy, Richard M. Gordon, W. Hammer, Torkel Engebritson, Engebret Torkerson, James H. Sackett, Salvage (?) McBerge (?), Ole H. Herneys, Thomas Olason,

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John Baardson and Knut Olson. (Some of these Norwegian names are written in such a manner that they are difficult to decipher.)

The first election was set for April 6, 1869, at the house of S. A. Wolcott. The township was organized as Oxford in accordance with the wish of the petitioners, but a year later (May 10, 1870) the name was changed to that of St. Olaf by the commissioners. St. Olaf was organized as a civil township the year following the organization of the county and was the second township organized, being officially formed by the commissioners just five months after Clitherall. This township lies on the southern border of the county and borders on Grant county. It is bordered on the north by Tordenskjold, on the west by Tumuli and on the east by Eagle Lake. It was settled by Norwegians, as were most of the southern townships of the county. The early settlers to this county came from the south and settled along the southern border first, although some of the townships through which the Northern Pacific railroad was built were among the earliest.

St. Olaf lies in the lake district, although it is at the southern border where the lakes are small. There are some thirty odd lakes in this township, but only seven worthy of mention. Lake Johnson is the largest, with Lakes Sewell, Jolly Ann, Vinge, Sonner, Johannes and Lacy following in the order of their size. There are only four sections, namely, 12, 28, 32 and 33, which do not contain a single lake within their limits. Very few of these lakes have outlets. The land in this section of the county is very rolling and broken. The farms are rather small and the township is well populated. There were two Lutheran churches in sections 20 and 21, respectively, as early as 1870. At present there are churches in sections 7, 12 and 21. There are cemeteries located in sections 20 and 23. There are six school districts in the townships with school buildings in sections 7, 11, 18, 20, 23 and 35. The town hall is located in section 21. There was a postoffice, called St. Olaf, located in section 2, for a number of years, but the rural route has caused this to be abandoned. There has never been a village platted in the township.

The present township officers are as follows: Supervisors, T. M. Salvevold, chairman; H. H. Berge and Martin Norby; clerk, N. E. Thormodson; treasurer, L. A. Boe; assessor, K. N. Sonmor; justices, N. E. Thormodson and E. N. Bystol; constables, Anton Veaasen and O. A. O. Vinje.

TUMULI TOWNSHIP.

Tumuli township was first known by the name of Union, having been established under that name by the board of county commissioners September 8, 1869, being the third organized township in the county. The township continued under its original name until May 10, 1870, when it was

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changed to Tumuli by an order of the commissioners. It is not shown in the record when and where the first election was held, but it is presumed that an election was held and officers elected soon after the organization of the township.

The petition for the organization of the township was signed by the following residents of congressional township 131, range 42. From the heading of the petition it is evident that some of the voters, or, at least, those who wrote the petition heading, were uncertain as to whether the county was organized at that time. They had an understanding that the county organization had been effected and that "officers were officiating in their several capacities," and so they prepared the following "partition" for presentation to the "humble body of county commissioners." It is here given as it appears in the original document:

"We, the undersigned legal voters of township one hundred and thirty-one (131), range forty-two (42), partition your humble body of County Commissioners for a set-off of our town from the town of Otter Tail, as we understand that the county is organized, and Officers are officiating in their several capacities, and you are satisied by the presentation of this partition that we the legal voters of the above named town did on the 7th day of August assemble and organize by choosing a full set of officers.

"G. W. McComber, Town Clerk."

This petition was signed by the following voters, every one of whom, with possibly one or two exceptions, were native-born Norwegians: Lars Nelson, Ole Simonseen, Butler Olson, Robert Halvor, Erick B. Brakke, Tolleff Nelson, O. C. Torgersen, B. T. Trane, Nels Nelson, Ole C. Dahl, Simmen C. Dahl, Ole A. Oimo, Hans Denesen, John Nitsen, James Woodwort, Truman S. Robbins, Bjorn Ch. Dahl, Anders Christensen, George W. McComber, Ole Jeorum, Esten Larsen, Lars Johanson, John E. Saternes, Engebret Mortensen, Andrew O. Stavne and Ole Eitensen.

The tax duplicate of 1870 lists the following taxpayers in Tumuli township: Ragnold Onstad, Arthur A. Flom, John J. Holen, John Hansen, John S. Memam, Nels Knutson, Andrew Haldorson, George B. Wright, I. D. Southworth, John Johnson, F. B. Van Hoesen, Louis A. Flom, Knut Paulson, Thomas C. McClure, Anders Oleson, Nils Cristofferson, Nils Nelson, Lars Nelson, George W. McComber, Truman Robbins, John E. Wedeken, Harold Syverson, Toleff Nelson, Hans Johnson, Lewis Anderson, Osmund Osmundson, John Golden, Patrick I. Kelley, James H. Fretenn, Anders Bjerikes, Ole J. Larson, Charles Wells, Ole P. Buck and Peder Norstad.

The present township officers are as follows: Supervisors, John Benson, P. P. Moen and Ole Paulson clerk, L. T. Nelson, treasurer, M. N.

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Rovang; assessor, John Dahlager; justices, W. F. Moebius and M. N. Rovang; constable, A. W. Bye.

Dalton.

The largest urban center in Tumuli township is the village of Dalton. It is located on the Great Northern railroad, in section 11, and is surrounded by a country of fertile farming land. This village was platted for Ole C. Dahl by Robert Miller in 1882, the plat being recorded October 30 of that year. For ten years or more the village struggled along without being incorporated. January 23, 1905, the citizens of the village drew up a petition and secured a number of signatures, asking for the privilege of voting on the question of incorporation. This petition was presented to the county commissioners March 21, 1905, and their request was granted. The petition, which stated that the proposed incorporation contained one hundred and sixey-six actual residents, was signed by the following legal voters:

J. O. Hatling, D. P. Thurnau, O. I. Brandvold, Albert Rustad, C .H. Weiby, Eilef Malen, J. D. Cannon, N. J. Larson, O. J. Hatling, M. O. Stangvik, H. O. Dahlen, A. R. Olson, E. Comelius, P. M. Moen, Lewis Hatling, J. A. Stortroen, E. N. Heald, Avle Brandvold, B. Rustad, A. L. Bakke, Alvin Rustad, Olaf L. Olson, N. B. Anderson, Peder J. Udby, L. A. Davis, S. O. Lersland, H. O. Aliverson, John J. Stangvik, J. H. Gregory, George Rustad and Lars Grong.

The commissioners fixed the 2d of May, 1905, as the day for the question of incorporation to be submitted to a vote of the village legal voters. The result of that election was an almost unanimous vote in favor of incorporation, only five out of thirty-two votes cast being in the negative.

The present village officers are as follow: President, L. A. Davis; trustees, J. A. Stortroen, Emil Hagen and A. H. Rostad; clerk, J. O. Hatling; treasurer, J. P. Brendal; justices, J. O. Hatling and E. T. Risbrudt; constables, J. O. Hatling and Ingvald Hagen.

Parkdale.

Parkdale, the only other platted village in Tumuli township, was platted as Hazel Dell in the winter of 1876, the plat being recorded on December 28, 1876. It was platted by C. J. Wright for Henry Oppermann, Otto Kunkel and Eliza Buse. A petition, dated September 20, 1877, was presented to the county commissioners on October 2 asking for the name of Hazel Dell to be changed to Parkdale. This petition was signed by Henry M. Kaus, Jacob Kotschevar, Charles Kretzschman, Ernest Buse, Otto Kaukel, O. N. Hohnburg and A. Kaus. The board notified the petitioners that they had no authority in the matter and that it would have to be referred to the Legislature. This was done, and the legislative act of February 7, 1878, was the result. This act stated that "The name of the townsite of Hazel Dell, in the

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county of Otter Tail, as the same now appears on the recorded plat of the said townsite, be, and the same is hereby, changed to the name of Parkdale, and the plat of said townsite shall hereafter be known and designated as the plat of the townsite of Parkdale." At the present time the place has nothing but a church, school house, one dwelling and an elevator.

TORDENSKJOLD TOWNSHIP

The township now known as Tordenskjold (township 232, range 41) was organized on September 8, 1869, as Blooming Grove township. The record fails to state when and where the first election was held.

On the same date township 133, range 41 (now known as Sverdrup) was attached to Blooming Grove for civil and criminal jurisdiction. Within less than a year after the township was organized (May 10, 1870) the heavy immigration of Norwegians to this township brought about a change of name to Tordenskjold, so named in honor of a famous Norwegian statesman. Among the early settlers of this township were Peder Pederson, J. T. Hoff, Lars Christiansen, Peder Hansen, Svend Johnson, Anders Jensen, Ole Jensen, Peter Jensen, Gabriel Stoutland (one of the first commissioners), Mikke Tongerson, Telmer Hoff, Hans P. Bjorge, Knud Pederson (one of the early commissioners), Tosten Stenersen, Sigrid Svensen and O. H. Ihlseng. This was the fourth township organized in the county. It came into existence at the same time with the township of Tumuli and only eleven months after the organization of the county. The early settlers of this township were all Norwegians. Tordenskjold is located in the south central part of the county and is bounded on the north by Sverdrup, on the west by Dane Prairie, on the south by St. Olaf and on the east by Clitherall. This township has several lakes, the largest of these being Lake Stalker, which covers approximately two and one-half acres. There are thirty-five lakes in this township, varying in size, but the greater percentage cover only a few acres. The land in this section is rolling. There has never been a town platted in this township, although the county seat was located at Tordenskjold, then a hamlet of one store, a saw-mill and a residence, by the legislative act of February 28, 1870.

However, the honor of being the seat of justice was to last for only one year, for the Legislature as its next annual session (February 16, 1871) removed it to Otter Tail City. It is interesting to note that during this year the county commissioners ordered a court house and jail built at Tordenskjold, but the act removing the county seat to Otter Tail City became effective before any work was done toward building. The act establishing the county seat at Tordenskjold located it in the southwestern quarter of section 32, although the postoffice of this name was situated in the southwest quarter of section 29. The advent of the rural route took away the duties of this

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office and it was withdrawn and no other attempt has ever been made to establish a town.

The present township officers are as follows: Supervisors, G. A. Jenson, Ole Gunderson and A. M. Thoreson; clerk,, H. C. Christensen; treasurer, H. A. Hanson; assessor, Jens Torgerson; justices, C. E. Olson and E. K. Johnson; constables, H. J. Nelson and E. J. Hanson.

AURDAL TOWNSHIP

The exact date of the organization of Aurdal township appears to be confused. The commissioners' record under date of November 13, 1869, shows the following memorandum:

"A petition presented to organize township 133, range 42, to be known by the name of Aurdal, fixed the time and place of holding the first town meeting. The above petition granted, the time of holding the first town meeting shall be on the —— day of ——— at the house of Jonas Hallan. Done by the order of the board of county commissioners, this 9th day of October, A. D. 1869."

Evidently the township was created at the October session, but for some reason not known it was not recorded until the November session. It may also be noted that no definite time was set for the election, a fact which makes it appear that there was no hurry about getting the township organized. In fact, the township was not organized in accordance with the above order of the commissioners, since on January 4, 1870, "a petition was presented to reorganize the township of Aurdal." The petition asked that the first election for township officials be held at the house of Jonas Hallan on the 24th of the same month.

On January 3, 1872, the unorganized lands south of Otter Tail river, in township 134, range 42 (now Friberg township) were added to Aurdal for all township purposes. The petitioners asking for the organization of Aurdal township were as follows: O. Jorgens, Aslag Torgusson, T. Torgusson, A. Annersen, Andru Annersen, Venet Halverson, H. O. Kaigen, Gunder Torgusson, Engebret Nelson, Nils Peter, Troud Svenson, Jon Monson, Knut Hendrikson, H. Nelson, N. E. Nelson, John Anderson, E. Anderson, S. Syverson, K. Erikson, C. Erikson, E. Oleson, Jonas Hallan, Ole Hallan and Ole H. Branden.

The township is thickly dotted with lakes, the largest being Fish lake, in the northeastern part of the township. Among the larger lakes may be mentioned Brekke, Loon, Little, Nelson, Norway, Wall, Bass, Mid, Spring, Aunel and Egg. The Red river meanders through the western part of the township from the north to the south and affords ample means for natural and artificial drainage. Despite the fact that the township has so many

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lakes the land is not swampy, but, on the contrary, has much valuable farming territory.

The first actual settlers in Aurdal township were Engebret Nelson, wife and four sons; Johannes Anderson, wife and one son, and Ole Erickson, a single man. These people, who were Norwegians, came from the southern part of the state, where they had stopped temporarily after coming from Norway. All but one of the ten were born in Norway. With their arrival in the summer of 1868 the township became known gradually as a Norwegian center, and so fast did the population grow that little more than a year later the township was asking for organization as a civil township. The difficulties which it met in getting established have just been stated, but with its formal organization it entered upon a healthy growth, which has continued down to the present time. The Nelsons settled on section 23 and representatives of the family are still in possession of the tract originally homesteaded.

N. E. Nelson kept the first postoffice at his house and he remained the sole representative of the government for many years. N. E. Boen was the second postmaster and he kept it at his house in section 25 until it was permanently established at Wall Lake. The first merchant, Julius Morstad, displayed his notions at Wall Lake, a village on the northern shores of the lake by the same name. At this same place Alfred opened the first blacksmith shop in the township, which was one of the very first to make its appearance in the county. Wall Lake was never platted, the only platted site in the township being Mill Park. It was platted in the fall of 1893 and recorded on December 28th of the same year. It was platted by George A. Burbank for Charles D. Wright and is located in section 31. The township hall is in the extreme northeastern part of section 21, practically the center of the township. The Northern Pacific railroad runs east and west through the southern portion of the township and since it was built, in 1882, the township has had ready access to the outside world. Wall Lake station is on the railroad due north from the lake of the same name and is the only station stop in the township.

The present township officers are as follows: Supervisors, N. M. Nelson, J. E. Boen and O. A. Haave; clerk, Louis Halvorson; treasurer, O. G. Torgerson; justices, G. S. Brekke and Alfred Bergerud; constables, J. B. Johnson and Ole Aas.

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CHAPTER IX.

TOWNSHIPS OF OTTER TAIL COUNTY, 1870.

PARKERS PRAIRIE TOWNSHIP

The township now known as Parkers Prairie (township 131, range 37) was organized as Jasper on January 4, 1870. The first election was held January 24, 1870, at the store of Henry Asseln, the first merchant in the village. On this same day a petition was granted to attach congressional township 132, range 37 (now known as Elmo township) and congressional township 132, range 36 (now known as Woodside township) to Parkers Prairie for civil and criminal jurisdiction.

The name of Jasper was changed to that of Parkers Prairie by a special act of the Legislature (approved March 1, 1873), the act reading as follows: "That the name of the township of Jasper, in the county of Otter Tail, and state of Minnesota, be, and the same is hereby, changed to that of Parkers Prairie, by which said last mentioned name the said township shall, for all purposes whatsoever, be hereafter called and known."

The petition which was presented to the commissioners for the organization of this township gives a list of twenty-one of the early settlers of this township and is here given in the order in which they appear on the original petition: G. A. Lindquist, P. O. Nelson, P. N. Lindquist, J. Lindquist, J. G. Nelson, John N. Nelson, P. Smith, Peter Lindall, Wyent Van Alstyne, Walter L. Pease, Archy McMurdy, Benj. S. Pease, E. Wedeken, W. Wedeken, J. Draper, Richard Handy, Will Morisson, John Miller, G. W. Levesten and H. Pelky.

Parkers Prairie is located in the southeastern part of Otter Tail county, on the Douglas county line. It is bounded on the north by Elmo, on the west by Effington and on the east by Eastern. It owes the early settlement of its territory to the fact that the land within its limits cannot be excelled by any other township in the county. The land in this section is very fertile and the early settlers took advantage of this and made it their permanent home. Another fact which may have had some weight in the settlement of this township was the fact that the early settlers in this section all came in from the south and the location of this township in the southeastern part caused it to be reached first, and in consequence the first stopping place. There are about fifteen lakes in this township, ranging in size up to a half section. The largest is Nelson lake, with Rainy, Horse Head and Adley following in the order of their size. Other lakes in the township are Fish, Cora, Clarno and

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Lake Augusta. The lakes are the chief sources for natural and artificial drainage in the township, as there are no rivers or streams except those small creeks which feed the lakes. The Soo railroad runs north and south through the township. This road was completed in 1902 and has been a source of great benefit to this section. It gave the farmers a ready outlet for their products in foreign markets, and greatly increased the value of the farm land. There is only one village within the limits of the township—Parkers Prairie.

Parkers Prairie.

In 1880 Richard H. McMahan and Amanda H., his wife, secured A. M. Darling to survey their land in section 22, township 131, range 37, for a townsite to be known as Parkers Prairie. The plat was recorded on August 10, 1880. Twenty-three years were to elapse before the village made any effort to become incorporated, and it was not until the summer of 1903 that definite steps were taken in that direction. On August 29 of that year a petition for incorporation was signed by a number of representative citizens of the village and on the 2d of the following October this was presented to the county commissioners for their consideration. This petition was signed by W. E. Dickson, A. C. Smith, Dan Roach, Allen Erckenbrack, Steve L. Perkins, E. McFarlane, M. W. A. Murray, W. C. Enos, E. H. Cook, William F. Jensen, Stephen C. Wheeler, E. P. Curtis, Dr. O. C. Quitmeyer, Ed. W. Cook, C. J. Richards, John P. Post, J. E. Murray, George McDona, J. P. Erckenbrack, Rufus L. Hardy, W. B. Hibbard, Dr. E. L. Hills, Peter Carlson, E. Hazen, Hans O. Hanson, J. C. Simpson, E. E. Hallin, J. C. Jackson, John J. Lorsung and George LaRose.

A census taken on August 29, 1903, showed that the territory seeking incorporation had a population of 182. The commissioners granted the petition on October 2 and ordered a special election held in the proposed town on November 17, 1903. Sixty-three votes were cast for incorporation and only six against it, according to the report of the inspectors in charge of the election.

The present village officers are as follow: President, C. H. Dahlstrom; trustees, C. A. Bergquist, J. E. Murray and John Embertson; clerk, J. L. Boline; treasurer, Ross Clarno; assessor, M. W. A. Murray; justices, W. Chamberlain and L. H. Brockman; constables, C. L. Erckenbrack and C. A. Cook.

DANE PRAIRIE TOWNSHIP

Dane Prairie (township 132, range 42) was organized as a civil township by the county commissioners on May 10, 1870. Practically all of the twenty signers of the petition presented to the board were natives of Denmark, and this fact sufficiently accounts for the name which was given the township. Their names follow: Niels Thygesen, Ernst Trochmann, John

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Christian Petersen, John C. Clemmensen, Hans Jacobsen, Gilbert Abrahamson, John Anderson, Christian A. Glorvigen, Peder Matzen, Ole Larson Crikken, Isak Carlsen, Ole Johansen Kasa, Hans Jensen, Hans Peter, Hanson Stevns, Lars Christiansen, Christian Hanson, Thor Thorsen Hille, John Grimseth, John Millstrom and Niels Millstrom. The first election was held at the house of J. Grunseton the 28th of the same month.

The tax duplicate prepared in 1869 lists fourteen taxpayers, to-wit: Thomas McClue, Orcut Boardman, Henry Van Arman, Mary A. L. Flover, O. T. Langen, Johan Grimseth, S. H. Smith, Ashael D. Southworth, John I. Merriam, George B. Wright, Ester Gilman, Ole Johnson, Hans Olson and Ole Christopherson. Most of these taxpayers were non-residents of the township.

Dane Prairie township has more lakes within its limits than any other township in the county; in fact, there is not a single section in the township which does not have at least one lake in it. By actual count there are seventy-five lakes wholly or partly within this township, the largest of them being Wall, Swan, Indian, Larson, Lye, Fossan, Rosvold, Bronseth and Aanesnes. One of the largest lakes in the township in former years, Stang, is now practically dry, having been drained through Wall lake to the Red river. It is interesting to know the difference in the altitude of these lakes above sea level; Rosvold is 1,309, Indian 1,278, Swan 1,193 and Fossan 1,245. Red river dips down into this township in section 5 and all of the northern and western portions of the township are in the basin of that river. The Pomme de Terre river reaches up into the southern part of the township and drains a portion of it.

There has been only one townsite platted in the township, Wall Lake Point, in section 4. It was platted for Lauritz L. Berg and his wife, Hilda, by Martin Aalberg and recorded on May 6, 1910. It stands on the western shore of Wall lake.

The town hall is located in the extreme northwestern corner of section 22. The only church is located in section 21 and dates back to the early days of the township. The first public cemetery was very probably the one located in the eastern part of section 28. The Great Northern railroad runs across the southwestern corner of the county.

FERGUS FALLS TOWNSHIP

The first effort of the citizens of Fergus Falls (township 133, range 43) to organize a civil township was made June 29, 1870. The petition for the organization of Fergus Falls township carried the names of the following legal voters residing here at the time: Ernest Buse, Henry Oppermann, Gustav Kalling, Henry Hanigson, Carl Haarstick(?), August Westberg, Peter Johnson, Lars Johnson, Johannes Petterson, Mathias J. Halden, Erik

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Nilson, C. H. Westberg, R. Kalling, J. Kalling, Mathias Syverson, Frederick ———, Iver Skistad, Mathias Halverson, Nels Johannson, Theodore M. Ulvigen, Henrik Burgdorf, T. Marks, C. Kosbau, T. C. Kosbau and Peter Sims. The first election was held at the house of Ernest Buse on July 15, 1870.

The first tax duplicate in Fergus Falls township (1870) gave the following taxpayers: Andrew Holes, James McLane, Hiram S. Teall, Iver O. Skistad, John C. Guist, F. B. Van Hoesen, Syver Thorsen, Amund Nelson, Henry Lornier, James A. Beaver, Knut Halverson, Lars Larsen Bakken, Ole Gunderson, Charles Alexson, Mary L. Wells, Henry Opperman, William Tims, Joseph Smith, Charles Wells, George B. Wright, Lorenz Johnson, Henry Lehmier, Frederick Mathias, Henry Burgdorf, Michael Dalton, Albert T. Upham, N. P. Clark, Calvin F. How, Sewell A. Wolcott, Chester Wail, Henry Cook and Lewis J. Brown.

This was the eighth township organized in the county. It is bounded on the north by Elizabeth, on the west by Carlisle, on the south by Buse and on the east by Aurdal. There are thirteen lakes of considerable size in this township. Wedel and Oppermann are the largest, with Lake Alice and the others ranging down to a few acres. Red and Pelican rivers flow through this township and furnish excellent natural and artificial drainage for this section. The Red river also affords water power for the mills which are located along its banks. The Red river enters the township in the east central part of section 36, then takes a westward course and leaves it in section 34, meandering into section 31, then returning to section 32, where it leaves the township, flowing due south. Pelican river enters the township on the line between sections 4 and 5. It then flows across the northern portion of the township, entering Carlisle township from the southwest corner of section 18, only to return again in the southwest corner of 30, and emptying into Red river, where the latter makes the bend into section 31. The maximum elevation of this township is in the northeastern part and rises to a point thirteen hundred fifty feet above sea level, while the minimum elevation of eleven hundred fifty feet is in the southwestern part, where the Red river leaves the township. The average elevation in the northwest central part ranges around twelve hundred fifty feet to thirteen hundred feet. There is much broken land in this section but, as a whole, it is excellent farming land.

Fergus Falls is the only town that has been platted in this township, and it will be taken up in another chapter. Most of the history of the township is concerned with the city of Fergus Falls.

The present township officers are as follow: Supervisors, H. Steinbach, E. Peterson and L. Tomhave; clerk, J. F. Tomhave; treasurer, William

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Haarstick; assessor, William Schoening; justices, William Schoening and Max Kronemann; constables, G. A. Tomhave and Albert Schmidt.

EAGLE LAKE TOWNSHIP

The township of Eagle Lake (township 131, range 40) was organized on September 5, 1870. The first election was held at the house of Lars Hernes, September 24, 1870. The petition for the organization of this township bore the date of August 9, 1870, and carried the following signers: Carl Torgerson, John Peterson, John Hagensen, Stephen Tyllam, Joseph Marcott, Ole J. Guldseth, O. Olsen, Lars Halversen, Peder Nilson Kjosnis, L. W. Weaver, Ole Hermansen, Nils P. Rosfmusen, Peer Jacobsen, Ole Perfen, L. L. Hermees and Tosten Norijen. Evidently the township did not take on a definite organization until after March 15, 1871, as shown by the following records in the commissioners' minutes: "Ole Hernes, being duly sworn, on oath says that the town of Eagle Lake refused to organize and elect town officers at the time fixed by law for holding their town meeting, and that no notice of any twelve freeholders has been posted to call a special town meeting for said town within thirty days after the annual town meeting.

"O. H. HERNES."

This report to the commissioners resulted in the ordering of an election at once, and, with the qualifying of the officials thus elected, the township formally began its career. Being one of the earliest settled townships in the county, it has many well-improved farms. The nearest approach to a village which the township has ever had is found in the eastern part of section 17, at which place a postoffice by the name of Hoff was maintained for many years. Here was the first store, grist-mill and blacksmith shop, but the embryonic village failed to grow. The fact that no railroad has ever invaded the quiet precincts of the township is another reason why no village has ever been established.

The water area is comparatively small, although Eagle lake covers over a section. There are about a dozen other lakes which cover from fifty to three hundred acres, but the surface of the township is sloped in such a way as to afford easy means of drainage.

ELIZABETH TOWNSHIP

The township of Elizabeth (township 134, range 43) was organized September 5, 1870. The first meeting was held at R. Niggler's store, September 24, 1870. The petition for the erection of this township, dated June 20, 1870, contained the following signatures: Rudolph Niggler, Lorenzo B. Peirce, Alson A. Peirce, E. A. Evans, John Grows, Charles D. Keck, G. Spindler, Edward Burau, Louis Candaux, Carl Gustav Wagner, Rugler Zimmerman, August Burau, Jacob Frey, Thomas White, Herman Zimmerman,

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Henry Teuss, Peter Knold, Alex E. Erhard, Adolph Niggler and Erwin W. Sims. The township was named in honor of the wife of Rudolph Niggler.

The territory lying within the Pelican river valley was one of the first sections in the country to be settled, and the first settlers of Elizabeth township date from the early organization of the county. No better farming land is to be found than lies in this township, while its proximity to the county seat has always had a tendency to give land a higher value than land in the more remote townships of the county. The largest lakes are Jewett, Long, Devil, Mason, Zimmerman, Reed and Helen, while a number of smaller bodies of water are scattered over the township. The whole township drains into the Pelican river, which runs south through the township along the western side.

The Pelican Rapids branch of the Northern Pacific passes through the township from north to south and affords easy communication with the outside world. This road was built in the early eighties. As a matter of fact, the township has had two railroads in its history, although the other one had only a brief career. The Great Northern built a branch from the village of Carlisle to Elizabeth and paralleled the Northern Pacific with its track to Pelican Rapids, but before the rails were laid it disposed of its right of way to its rival. The grade is now used in places as a highway. The history of these two roads is given in the chapter on railroads elsewhere in this volume.

The only village of any importance is Elizabeth, and it dates back more than forty years. A summer resort, known as Lake Mason, located on the northern side of the lake of the same name has been platted.

Elizabeth.

The village of Elizabeth, located in section 31, of the township bearing the same name, was platted in 1872 for Herman and Marie Burau. The plat was recorded September 19, 1872. The village was granted the right of incorporation by the district judge, L. W. Collins, on November 21, 1884. The incorporation included two hundred acres. The judge named Peter Maurin, M. H. Iltis and Peter N. Smith to give notice of the first election for village officials.

Elizabeth has all of the various business enterprises usually found in good rural villages, and boasts of general stores, an implement dealer, creamery, blacksmith shop, confectionery store, lumber yard, elevator, flour-mill, bank and one of the most substantially built garages in the western part of the state. A large amount of live stock is marketed here and thousands of bushels of small grain are handled annually by the Maurin elevator and the Pelican River flour-mills. The religious life of the community is well taken care of by three churches, the oldest being St. Elizabeth's Catholic church. The other denominations are the Swedish Lutheran and the St. John's Evangel-

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ical Lutheran churches. All three have flourishing congregations, excellent church buildings and parsonages. The German Evangelical church also has a good parochial school building. The two-story brick public school building was erected in 1905.

The present village officials are as follows: President, Henry F. Maurin; councilmen, Frank Grouws, A. Marquard and Fred Wilde, Sr.; clerk, J. C. Rian; treasurer, Fred Wilde, Jr.; assessor, C. S. Bell; justices, C. S. Bell and L. D. Barcalow; constables, Fred Wilde, Jr., and Walter Wilde.

OTTER TAIL TOWNSHIP

The first attempt to organize Otter Tail township was made in the spring of 1870, but for some reason which has not been discovered the organization was not effected at this time. A petition dated February 26, 1870, and signed by fourteen legal voters of township 134, range 39, asked for its establishment as a civil township. The fourteen interested citizens were R. L. Frazee, William W. McArthur, Peter Willbrand, J. Covreth, Donald McDonald, William McDonald, A. Bellegen, John Bunken, Charles Mason, George Mathews, James McDougall, C. H. Peake, Giles Peake and Louis Mayrand. The history of this township prior to 1862 is found in the chapter entitled "Otter Tail County in 1860."

The board granted this petition on the 8th of the following month and gave the name of Otter Tail to the new township. They set March 17 for the election of the first township officials and designated the store of C. H. Peake as the voting place. It is very evident that the election did not take place at this time, since a second petition for the organization of the same congressional township was presented to the commissioners on September 5, 1870. This second petition, dated August 24, 1870, carried the following names: William W. McArthur, J. E. Aanserdon, Z. Covrette, A. Bellengen, P. Bellengen, Peter Willbrand, Albert Gontwan, D. McArthur, William McDonald, W. A. Plummer, Louis Dall, Martin Welch, F. H. Englundy, J. A. Wagg, Samuel Whitney, Philip Bower, James Hendry, Andrew Olson, John Pelissier, George W. Matthews, Simon Zenson, Byron Lent, R. L. Frazee and James Craigie.

In accordance with the order of the commissioners, granting the second petition, the first election was held at the home of William McArthur, September 24, 1870. The next appearance of Otter Tail township in the commissioners' records is on October 12, 1880, when A. S. Blowers, of the said township, appeared before the board and made an affidavit to the effect that "there has been no town meeting nor election held in said township for at least four years past and it has been without township officers during all that time and that the same is an organized township." Evidently there was no refutation of the charge, since the commissioners proceeded at once to

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appoint officers for the township, to-wit: Supervisors, John McNellis, A. S. Blowers and Wallace Johnson; clerk, Archibald McArthur; justices of the peace, Frank Barnes and A. S. Blowers; constables, Peter DeCourcy and Andrew Laird; treasurer, Charles Cox. These officers were ordered to qualify for their respective positions and hold them until their successors were elected and qualified.

It is interesting to note the taxpayers of Otter Tail township, as listed on the duplicate of 1870, which means that they were owners the year previous: Thomas McClure, Thomas Cathcart, James E. Wing, Ezra Briggs, Abraham Morris, Samuel Whitney, George B. Wright, Hannah Carver, Edmund Belon, Jerome C. Todd, Solon Moore, Nathan Butler, Augusta Montana, Archibald McArthur, William McArthur, Theressa Conner, Truman Varner, Charles Rook, Daniel Brennan, Simon G. Hill, John Bishop, Sylvester Statulen, John Knight, Calvin F. How and Arthur Berson.

This is one of the earliest settled townships in the county, and as soon as the county seat was re-established at Otter Tail City by an act of the Legislature in the spring of 1871, the town began to have hopes that it would one day become a real city. However, with the removal of the county seat to Fergus Falls in the fall of 1872, Otter Tail City lost all hopes of ever being anything but a rural village. The whole history of this township would have been changed if the Northern Pacific had passed through it, but, as subsequent events proved, this was eventually to cause it to lose its honors as the seat of justice and later its very identity as a village.

Practically half of this township is covered with water, considerably more than one-third of the township being covered with Otter Tail lake. Other lakes are Gourd, McDonald, Buchawanli, Long, Pickerel, Portage and Round. The remainder of the township is good farming land and no better farmers are to be found in the county than in Otter Tail township.

There have been three platted villages in the township, namely, Otter Tail City, Ottertail and Balmoral, although the latter is little more than a summer resort and is hardly to be classed as a village.

Ottertail.

Ottertail village dates only from 1903, and is not to be confused with Otter Tail City, a village which flourished more or less on the eastern shore of Otter Tail lake from 1858 until the Soo line was put through the county in the early part of this century. If all reports be true, the late Otter Tail City might today be the county seat of the county if one particular landowner of the place had been willing to give the Northern Pacific a right of way through his farm.

The present village of Ottertail was platted by the Minnesota Loan and Trust Company and the plat recorded on September 3, 1903. Within less

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than six months the citizens of the infant village were clamoring for incorporation and in their petition of March 7, 1904, they stated that they wished to incorporate a tract of land embracing a total of six sections, or three thousand eight hundred forty acres, two thousand seven hundred twenty-one acres of which was land and one thousand one hundred nineteen acres water. The petition further stated that this proposed village, six miles wide and twelve miles long, contained one hundred and forty-eight inhabitants.

The petition asking for incorporation carried the names of twenty-nine citizens and legal voters, to-wit: E. B. Robinson, L. G. Sanders, H. A. Schultz, H. W. Truhn, G. A. Schult, C. L. Whiting, George Sawyer, J. W. Herzog, M. Barber, Conrad Kahler, Henry Hunter, Barney Kahler, A. R. McGowan, J. A. Lamb, Rasmus Olson, O. C. Olson, Otie Whiting, O. T. Skrukrud, G. A. Anderson, I. G. Moats, Vernon Morow, W. H. Loomis. E. P. Taylor, Harry Vosberg, John W. Johnson, James Bigley, Otto C. Pries, William H. Colvert and Edward Patterson. The election on May 3, 1904, showed thirty-five votes for as against eight opposed to incorporation.

At present Ottertail is a village of one hundred and eighty. It has a German Lutheran and Methodist Episcopal church, a bank, hotel, grain elevator and creamery. The future manufacturing interests and general welfare of the town is looked after through a commercial club. The membership of this club comprises all of the business men of the town and nothing is left undone by them to bring their little village to the front. G. A. Schultz is the present president.

The business interests of the present are carried on by the following persons: Hotel Just, Mrs. Emil W. Just, proprietress; railroad and telegraph agent, J. F. Allison; blacksmith, Harry R. Jones; cement worker, Batton F. Barnett; livery, J. Gordon McCloud; hardware, William F. Kempf; meat market, Samuel B. Barnett; millinery, Emma Bentlag; lumber, Wilcox Lumber Company, G. A. Shultz, agent; physician, John Knight; wood worker, Frank E. Kaiser; elevator, Northland Elevator Company, Henry Miller, agent creamery, Farmers' Co-operative Creamery Association, H. A. Shultz, president; Herman Grefe, secretary; Henry Miller, treasurer; fuel, Otter Trail Fuel Company, H. J. Schafer, president; Henry Miller, manager. Henry A. Schultz is the present postmaster.

The present village officers are as follow: President, H. A. Schultz; trustees, Fritz Lueders, B. F. Barnett and Herman Grofe; clerk, Henry Miller; treasurer, G. A. Schultz; justices, J. R. Jones and S. B. Barnett; constables, Max Wardeen and W. C. Kempf.

There are two summer resorts platted in Otter Tail township, Midway Park and Pleasure Park. The plat of Midway Park was recorded October 16, 1905, being platted by Martin Aalberg for Frank J. A. and Ida M. Lar-

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son. It is located in Otter Tail township, section 31, township 134, range 39. Pleasure Park was platted by Martin Aalberg for W. F. and Julia Aitkinson and recorded in the office of the register of deeds on July 13, 1912. It is located in the northeastern part of Otter Tail township, section 4, township 134, range 39.

PELICAN TOWNSHIP

Congressional township 136, range 43, was organized as Pelican township by the county commissioners on September 5, 1870. The petition, which is dated July 3, 1870, bore the names of twenty-three legal voters and also the humble request to "please call this township Pelican." The names of the petitioners follow: Ole Onsum, Ole Christansen, Mons Olsen, Emerson Harris, —— Bullman, Thomas H. Birge, Harrison Harris, Wilson Harris, W. F. Cowles, Gordon A. Cowles, Charles Guin, E. Guin, Chrales Burau, Ole Engebritson Sanbe, Ole Seillstad, John Holen, Erland Ellefsen, Erik Rishof, Gilbert Larson, Christian Sorenson, Theodore Hansen and Hans Hansen. It is interesting to note that over half of the signers were Norwegians. The first election was held at the store of S. H. Birge, September 14, 1870. Congressional township 136, range 42 (now known as Lida township), was attached to Pelican by the county commissioners on January 6, 1875, and remained a part of that township until March 19, 1879, when it was organized as a separate township.

Pelican township lies in the basin of the Pelican river and the land slopes in such a way that it is easily drained. Prairie lake is the largest and covers nearly a section and a half in sections 10, 11, 14 and 15. The surface of the township is rolling in many parts, but not so rugged but that it can be cultivated.

This township was one of the first in the county to be settled. The building of the railroad to it in the early eighties did a great deal toward helping its rapid development. As has been said, the majority of the early settlers were Norwegians, and to this day the people of that nationality predominate.

Pelican Rapids.

Pelican Rapids was platted by Robert Miller in 1872 for the following proprietors: George B. Wright, A. J. Baldwin, W. J. Tuttle and Harrison Harris. This village is located in sections 22 and 27, township 136, range 43, and is the largest village in Otter Tail county at the present time. The village plat was recorded October 19, 1872. Since that date there have been a large number of additions made to the original plat.

The beginning of the village of Pelican Rapids reads like a romance, and it is safe to say that no village in Otter Tail county has had a more interesting beginning. The founder of the village was W. G. Tuttle, a man of

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energy and ability, but destined to come under the malign influence of the greatest rascal who ever set foot on Otter Tail county. Briefly stated, the founding of Pelican Rapids may be summed up as follows:

About 1870 the advancing tide of immigration which brought Ernest Buse and a few others to Fergus, Rudolph Niggler to Elizabeth, and left Louis Candaux, Alex Erhard, Peter Davis and others in their well-known location to the northward, also brought the first settlers to Pelican Rapids. Among these was W. G. Tuttle, whom fickle fortune tempted with visions of success and wealth only to blight and blast them with the dream that failed to materialize. His claim at the rapids was chosen with good judgment and his two eighties, a mile long, embraced the best water power on the river, together with a good townsite location. He went to work with little capital to improve the power and build his sawmill.

Just at this time the famous fraud, "Lord Gordon," having fooled Horace Greeley and swindled Jay Gould in New York, found his way to Minnesota, where he spent the winter of 1870 and 1871 in sporting with Jay Cook and the Northern Pacific Company, then in the course of its construction from Duluth westward.

The scheme of the bogus lord was a grand one and commended him to both philanthropists and business men. He proposed to purchase of the Northern Pacific Company twenty-five thousand acres with the rapids for a center, where he would build a city by the name of Loomis. On these and intervening vacant government lands and in the city of Loomis he proposed to colonize some thousands of his poor but industrious, frugal and skilled Scotch tenants. He had visions of building a city and giving them their homes to be repaid when they were able to do so. He pointed out an imaginary hotel on one corner, a fine bank building on another, with an elegant church on a convenient elevation. He offered to take Tuttle into the pool as a partner and in the following spring (1872) work was to begin in earnest. He would have the then projected St. Vincent railway run from Fergus Falls up the valley past the rapids, and told Tuttle to go on getting out logs for a future lumber supply, telling him that he might cut down logs on any of the railroad land for which he had already contracted.

Tuttle did as instructed, borrowed money, got out logs, and when his lordship was exploded the railroad company demanded stumpage. This was the rock on which poor Tuttle went down and, though he resided at the rapids seven or eight years longer, he never recovered his lost grit. He was probably the best target rifle-shot ever in Otter Tail county, but this one accomplishment was not sufficient to make him a good business man. Mrs. Tuttle was highly esteemed as a lady by all who knew her. She kept her elegant piano for some years in a rude log house standing at the rapids, and

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was then compelled to sell it to parties at Fergus Falls in order to raise money to convey herself, husband and children back among New York state friends. Shortly afterwards Tuttle became insane and died in an insane asylum in his native state in the spring of 1882.

Gordon, who had a special Northern Pacific train at his command for weeks, was subsequently kidnaped by Fletcher and Hoy in Manitoba, where, escaping, he fled to the wilderness and, being finally put under arrest for high crimes in England, ended his life by a pistol ball through his head. Thus ended the lives of the pioneer of Pelican and an artful scoundrel who haunted the town in its infancy. .

In the spring of 1882 the leading citizens of the village decided to draw up a petition asking for incorporation, and such petition was finally signed and sworn to before a notary public on April 11. This petition carried the following names: M. B. Gibson, Henry Dussling, Frank E. Blodgett, E. Leonard, H. O. Time, W. H. Hazle, E. Keller, Frank Davis, John F. Cox, J. E. Lacy, J. A. Goodrick, D. D. Woodruff, W. H. Pattee, John Simpson, G. S. Hanson, C. H. Burrows, Melim Leonard, Z. I. Burton, H. H. Haugen, H. P. Johnson, N. Tyrrell, N. Compre, E. Collins, Ernest H. Hubbard, Charles Rupell, C. A. Davis, A. A. Woodworth, Anthony Healey, Peter I. Holin, Asa Meyers, Andrew Oleson, Henry Manley, Charles T. Robards, H. N. Bruce, J. W. Stage, J. O. Sands, H. Achmar, B. B. Hovey, K. T. Quale, E. S. Pinkham, L. B. Ramsdell, H. D. Wilcox, L. W. Gray, Hans Mickelson, O. M. Carr, J. P. Wallace, G. W. Batcheller, A. G. Kinney, A. N. Eshelman, W. E. Ingalls, W. G. Cox, R. N. Blodgett, F. Murray, G. B. Puckett, R. R. Kinney, R. A. Pierce, C. A. Life, E B. Gray, F. P. Percival, P. A. Williams, H. W. Bragg, R. E. Lacy, W. P. Reynolds, H. R. Day, M. Fred Fleischer, L. C. Druy, L. F. Fleischer, H. L. Ricker, William Hubbard, I. P. Lackey, E. H. Noel, M. F. Jacobs, George Chapman, Joseph Chapman, H. H. Wickum, A. E. Boen, F. E. Holmes, August Anderson, John M. Sletten, Albert Teilset, Imbert Skreden, Charles Port and Theo. Frazee.

The petition stated that the proposed incorporation contained a population of seven hundred The judge of the district court, S. W. Collins, granted the request of the petitioners on May 16, 1882, and appointed Myron B. Gibson, Henry Dressler and J. P. Wallace to take charge of the election for the selection of the first village officials.

The unusual incidents which surrounded the founding of Pelican Rapids have been mentioned, but they had little or no bearing on the future history of the village. For more than forty years Pelican Rapids has been the center of a community life which is not unlike that of all other villages in the state. It had its first merchant, its first postmaster, its first child to be born, and its "first" of everything which goes to the making of a village. Some of

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these "firsts" have been gleaned from the first settlers of the village and are here presented that future generations may know who was who and what was what.

The first settler in the village was Harrison Harris. Harris built the first house, a rude log structure, which stood in the mill pond, about one hundred feet back of the Nelson & Diffendorf store. Harris may be said to be the first tavern keeper and, according to some of the old settlers still living, his caravansary contained one room, which, when trade was brisk, was partitioned off with skins or sheets. Otto Andreas Edward Blyberg was the first merchant, the first postmaster, the first man to build a frame house, the father of the first child born in the village (the child, Lottie Marie, being the wife of C. N. Haugen), and is still alive to tell the story. The first physician was W. H. Pattee, and he was the only one for many years. The first preacher was T. Rosholdt, a Lutheran, who preached the first sermon in the village and officiated in the first church. The first follower of Tubal Cain was Wesley F. Cowles, who served a community within a circuit of twenty miles. His wife was the first white woman to settle in the township of Pelican Rapids. The first bricks were made in a factory operated by Milo F. Jacobs, and they were hand-made brick, some of which may be seen to this day in several places in the village. W. G. Tuttle, the real founder of the village, built the first saw-mill and, when he failed, the mill passed into the hands of George Robinson. R. L. Frazee later became proprietor of this saw-mill, and about the same time opened the first flour-mill in the growing village. A Frenchman by the name of Eduard Oriel was the first barber and presumably operated the first news stand. Oriel is now living in Shevlin, Minnesota, having retired some years ago from the tonsorial business with a sufficient competency for his declining years. The first wielder of the rod and ferrule was Mrs. George W. Coye, who taught in a room in her own house. The first newspaper was established by a man by the name of Rathbun, whose wife succeeded him as editor upon his death. This paper was rightly called *The Pioneer*. The first band made its appearance in the latter part of the seventies under the leadership of Mat Nelson, its first leader. The suit worn by the drum major of this band was a gorgeous piece of sartorial raiment, a flaming red, trimmed in gold braid and lace, a masterpiece of the tailor's art, which would have delighted the heart of Beau Brummel himself. This suit, with the old gaily caparisoned baton, is now in the possession of Louis Amundson, who, by the way, is the oldest member of the present city band. The first train steamed into the village in the fall of 1882, turned around, steamed out again, and for thirty-three years the villagers have been wondering when it would stop turning around.

As has been said, Blyberg was the first postmaster. He retained the

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office from the time he was appointed in 1871, at the munificent salary of twelve dollars a year, until 1886, when Theodore Frazee succeeded him. Frazee was followed in 1891 by George Washburn, who died before his term expired, his wife being appointed by his bondsmen to fill his unexpired term. Charles Frazee, the present incumbent, was appointed October 5, 1895, and assumed the office on the first of the following month. The office now pays a salary of fourteen hundred dollars a year.

The first mail received in the village in 1871 was brought by the carrier who rode the star route from Fergus Falls to Detroit, making the round trip once a week. Later in the seventies, mail was received twice a week, and with the tri-weekly train service established in 1882, mail was received and sent out every other day. At the present time the local office receives two mails daily, one by train from the south and the other by way of a star route from Rothsay. The former reaches the village in the evening and the latter about nine o'clock in the morning. The first rural routes out of Pelican Rapids were established in 1903, one running into Norwegian Grove township and causing the abandonment of Center Grove postoffice, and the other going north into Scambler township and bringing about the discontinuance of Bangor postoffice. In 1906 four other rural routes were established and at the same time five postoffices in adjoining townships were discontinued, namely: Stod (Trondhjem), Norwegian Grove (Norwegian Grove), Pelican Lake (Scambler), Lida (Lida) and Bessie (Lida). As a matter of fact the star route carrier is really in effect a rural carrier, the law obligating him to deliver mail to any person living on the route he travels between Rothsay and Pelican Rapids. The star route carrier travels thirty-two miles daily and receives nine hundred and eighty-five dollars annually. The six rural carriers travel an average of twenty-eight and one-half miles daily and receive twelve hundred dollars annually. They serve a total of six hundred heads of families and cover the northwest part of the county and also reach into Becker and Clay counties. Carl J. Lundberg, on route No. 2, is the only one of the mail carriers who has served since the establishment of the first rural route. The present postoffice building is owned by the postmaster and rented by him to the government.

The present volunteer fire department was organized in the early spring of 1906, the authorization for its establishment being granted by the Legislature on March 22 of that year. Four separate companies were created: two hose, one hook, ladder and chemical and one engine company. Hose company No. 1 is now composed of O. B. Krogsatd (foreman), R. B. Strachen (assistant foreman), C. A. Hanson, B. L. Mathiason and Oscar Knutson. Hose company No. 2 is composed of S. H. Lowell (foreman), R. H. Gripentrog (assistant foreman), B. M. Bjornstad and Allen Mills. The hook, ladder and chemical company has six members: O. E. Olson

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(foreman), E. N. Haugen (assistant foreman), E. M. Stephenson, Louis Quamme, Anton Skalstad and F. J. Damschen. The engine company has five members: Henry Olson (chief), Louis Amundson (assistant chief), M. B. Myhre, O. E. Mathiason and J. L. Ranger.

The equipment of the department consists of one hand-drawn engine, two hose carts, hooks and ladders, and about two thousand feet of hose. The department is housed in the village hall near the Pelican river. A tank containing twelve hundred barrels supplies ample water for all ordinary fires, and in case that supply is used, the river is utilized. The village has been very fortunate in the way of destructive fires, the last one of any consequence occurring about six years ago when a planing-mill was burned.

The firemen have an annual salary of six dollars, which salary is dependent upon regular attendance on monthly drills. Absence from drill subjects the absentee to a fine of twenty-five cents. Most of the members of the fire department are connected with the Firemen's Relief Association, which pays its members certain reliefs for disabilities incurred while in the discharge of their duties as firemen. This fund was established by statute and consists of one per cent of all insurance premiums on property within the incorporation. This amounts to a little more than one hundred dollars in Pelican Rapids, the total amount in the fund of the department now being one thousand two hundred and seventy-nine dollars. In the ten years that the fund has been growing not a single member of the department has been disabled and hence no money has yet been paid out. Louis Amudson is the secretary of the fund. Members of the department are allowed one dollar for each fire they attend and if they are in attendance for more than one hour they receive fifty cents for each additional hour they are on duty.

The president of the council and three members receive twelve dollars a year; the recorder is paid a yearly salary of three hundred and sixty dollars; the treasurer, one hundred dollars; the fire chief fifty dollars and the assessor two dollars per day for time actually put in while assessing. It will be noticed that the village has no marshal and it has not had one for several years. The village building has two steel cells, but there have been no occupants of the cells for many years. The duties of the marshal are performed by the township constable, O. N. Anderson. All of these officials except the assessor have a one-year tenure.

The village owns its own electric light and power plant. The first plant was established in 1900 in a building which stands by the village hall. The dynamo was operated by steam and is still in running order. However, in 1906 the village built a second plant with water power for generating purposes, utilizing the waters of the Pelican river. Thus the village has two completely equipped plants, so that when there is not sufficient water to run the one, the other can be used. In fact, so rapid has been the extension of

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the service that the 1906 plant is hardly sufficient to meet the demand and it is necessary to operate both plants at times. The first superintendent of the electric plant was C. M. Gray, who was in charge from 1900 to 1910. He was followed by Albert Hannes (1910-1912); since 1912 H. E. Stevens has been in charge. The "white way" was established in 1913 and with the installation of a double row of handsome cluster lights along Main street, the village assumes a real metropolitan aspect. The rate to consumers is twelve cents per kilowatt for the first one hundred kilowatts used and nine cents for all power used above that figure. Five customers use more than one hundred kilowatts. Electricity for power costs six cents per kilowatt on motors above one-horse power or on several motors aggregating that amount. It is interesting to note that more than one hundred electric irons are now in use in the village.

Pelican Rapids is justly proud of its band, an organization which dates back about forty years. About the middle of the seventies Mat Nelson organized the first band, which, with various re-organizations, has been in continuous existence since that time. At the time the band was reorganized in 1894 it had the following members: Charles Gustafson, O. M. Isberg, Christ Gordon, Louis Amundson, Theodore Knudson, Edwin E. Pinkham, William Knudson, Carl D. Haugen, W. N. Harris, H. A. Renner, George Ahearn, R. S. Eberly, Louis Henderson and Ole Rakvog. Of these members Louis Amundson is the only one still playing with the present band, and he still uses a brass trombone which was purchased for the first band in the seventies. The present band is composed of the following members: Cornets, O. B. Krogstad, Edward Lund, George Strom and Ralph Svare; trombones, David Halbacken and Martin Arneson; alto, Elmer Thompson, Norman Thompson and Marcus Hanson; barytone, Martin Myhre; French horn, Mr. John; basses, Louis Amundson and Otto Thompson; saxaphone, B. M. Bornstad and Ferdinand Nelson; clarinets, Arthur Hanson; snare drum, Lawrence Amundson; bass drum, Ole Thorstenson. The band employs a skilled instructor, J. E. Racicot, who instructs the band once a week. The band is well-uniformed and is in constant demand for concerts for all kinds of occasions. It gives weekly concerts in the summer season in its band stand on Main street. The merchants guarantee the band forty dollars a month during the open playing season. Two or three concerts are given every winter in the village, which, with outside concerts, furnishes the band with a sufficient income to purchase instruments as they are needed, buy uniforms and music and employ an instructor.

Pelican Rapids is in need of just one thing in order to give it new life—an extension of the Great Northern through to connect with the Northern Pacific. When this will come, no one knows, but the citizens have not given up hope that it will eventually be built. As a trading center it draws

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from a territory extending fifteen to twenty miles each way from the village and the general appearance of the town bears out the statement that it is destined to grow in size and importance. A summary of the business and professional life of the village shows that it is well supplied with industries of all kinds. The main features of its business and professional life are as follow: Auctioneer, O. N. Anderson; automobile dealers, Charles Frazee, James Logan, Charles Olson; automobile garage, Herman Grunewald; bakery, Edward Rude; barbers, George Frederickson, W. B. Snyder; banks, First National, First State, J. P. Wallace State; blacksmiths, G. H. Langlie, Legrude & Anger; clothing, Mr. Grina; clothing and shoes, Boston Clothing House; confectionery, A. Holmes & Company; creamery, Farmers Co-operative, P. Klostad, president; dentists, J. F. Knutson, G. A. Anderson; dray lines, Edward Stephanson, Robert Strachen; drug stores, O. M. Axness, Andrew Peterson, O. J. Lee; elevators, Heiberg Elevator Co., Independent Elevator Co. (O. I. Sethre, manager), Farmers Co-operative Elevator Co., H. E. Frazee; flouring mill, H. E. Frazee; Furniture and undertaking, H. T. Haugen, Andrew Peterson; general stores, C. N. Haugen, J. M. Mills, Carr & Poss, Peter Peterson; groceries, Louis Amundson, E. E. Mathiason, Ole Johnson, Mike Anderson; groceries and clothing, Henry Olson; hardware, Ole Meland, L. A. Williams, G. H. Goecke, John Mattson; harness, B. F. Gunsalus; hotel, New Richmond, B. J. Aaby, proprietor; implement dealers, C. D. Haugen, Edward Thurnau; jewelers, Olaf Sanstad; lawyers, H. N. Bruce; liveries, Toso Brothers, Thomas Ostrus; lumber, Pelican Rapids Lumber Co., Stenerson Brothers; millinery, Anna Knutson, Grace Stevens; meat shops, Knutson & Angle, G. C. Backstrom; moving pictures, Logan & Sanstad; musical instruments, Olaf Sanstad; notion store, N. Quandahl; photographer, E. R. Leaf; physicians, Theodore Satersmoen, Snyder, Boysen; plumber, W. N. Harris; pool, Bock & Hanson; restaurants, M. B. Myhre, Oscar Olson, Jesse Miller, C. A. Hanson; real estate, P. C. Frazee; shoes, A. Sanners; veterinary, E. L. Miller, Oscar Arickson.

The present village officers are as follow: President, J. M. Johnson; trustees, P. C. Frazee, C. D. Haugen and C. W. Sherin; clerk, H. N. Bruce; treasurer, N. Quandahl; assessor, J. M. Ranger; justice, O. J. Morrison; constables, O. N. Anderson and L. H. Hannaford.

ERHARDS GROVE TOWNSHIP.

The township of Erhards Grove (township 135, range 43) was organized on September 24, 1870. The petition for the organization of this county was dated July 2, 1870, and of the sixteen names attached to the petition, every one with possibly one or two exceptions are Scandinavian and nearly impossible to decipher. The only names which could be read are the following: C. A. Evans, C. D. Reck, Petre Daves, Wiljam Daves, Cristof-

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son Anderson, Ole Olson, Alexander E. Erhard and Petter Knobel. The first election was held at the house of A. E. Erhard.

This was the thirteenth township organized in the county. It is bounded on the north by Pelican, on the west by Trondhjem, on the south by Elizabeth and on the east by Maplewood. There are a great number of lakes in this section, but they are all small and very few of them have outlets. Sandberg lake is the largest and Lake Knobel is second, with thirty-two minor lakes. The farms in this township are as a rule, small, the largest percentage containing twenty or forty acres, although the northern side they are somewhat larger. The Pelican river meanders southwest through the central part of the township. This furnishes an excellent natural and artificial drainage for the farms in this township. This river is the outlet for the various lakes in the northern and eastern part of the township. The Great Northern Railway runs the length of the township from north to south. This road was built in 1881-82 and furnishes an outlet to the seat of justice for the farmers of this section. There is only one station on the line in Erhards Grove township.

The present township officers are as follow: Supervisors, Edward Bruestle; chairman, Nils Skalstad and John Kowalski; clerk, P. M. Knoff; treasurer, A. O. Solum; assessor, Christ Kittelson; justice, J. S. Sammons; constable, M. E. Lee.

The village of Erhard, in the township of Erhards Grove, is located in section 28, township 135, range 43. It was platted by L. R. Lothrop for Sven and Elisabeth Syverson and recorded in the office of the register of deeds July 25, 1882.

BUSE TOWNSHIP.

Congressional township 132, range 43, was organized as Buse township, October 3, 1870. The first election was held at the house of E. Grussendorf on October 22, 1870. On July 29, 1874, the unorganized part of congressional township 132, range 44 (now a part of Orwell township) was attached to Buse. The petition for the erection of this township dated September 15, 1870, contains the names of fourteen legal voters and also requested the commissioners to give the name of Buse to the township. Ernest Buse, in whose honor the township was named, was one of the earliest settlers and became one of the most influential men of the county. The names of the petitioners follow: E. Grussendorf, O. Sandberg, Charles Hallberg, A. Hallberg, John Grinager, Samuel Snow, L. P. Holmquist, William Winter, C. G. Lindell, H. H. Randolph, John Dante, C. Lundblad, George W. Gowdz and John W. Woom. The tax duplicate of 1870 carried the following names: Joseph G. Smith, Richard J. Mendenhall, Ernest Buse, Mary D. Wait, Eli W. Dewey, Edwin M. Wright, John Jones, Isaac T. Comstock, George Beerman, Calvin F. How, Miles C. Davis, Franklin

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Bardett, Edward Fessenden, Charles Davis, Stephen Dillon, Warren G. Fessenden, George F. Fessenden, and Alfred Barlow. Several of these tax payers were not residents of the township.

Buse township has several lakes, but none of a large acreage. The largest are Horseshoe, Pebble, Iverson and Lye. At least a dozen others are scattered over the township ranging in size from a few acres to a hundred or more. Red river enters the township in section 3, and after meandering to the west, leaves the township in section 5, only to re-enter it in section 6. The river then takes a southerly direction through sections 6, 7, 8, 17, 20 and 29, leaving the township in section 30.

If historical records are to be trusted the first actual settlement in the county was in this township along the banks of Red river. The Wrights built the first mill on the river in section 20. They came to the township in the latter part of the fifties and left it at the time of the Indian trouble in 1862. The leaders among the first settlers may be seen in the petition which was presented to the county commissioners in the fall of 1870, when they were seeking the establishment of the township.

There has never been a townsite platted within the limits of the township with the single exception of Fergus Falls. As the county seat is now laid out, approximately half of it is in this township—all of section 3 and about half of sections 2 and 4. The history of Fergus Falls is discussed elsewhere in this volume. The county seat has always been the postoffice for the township.

The first railroad projected through the southwestern part of the county was surveyed across this township through what is known as Dayton Hollow. In fact, part of the right of way was actually graded and had it not been for the panic of 1873 it appears that the road would have missed Fergus Falls altogether. Fortunately, when work was resumed on the railroad in the latter part of the seventies it was resurveyed so as to pass through the county seat. The old grade may yet be seen in many places and bears silent witness to the work done on it more than forty years ago. As finally built the railroad goes through the northeastern part of the township, entering in section 13 and passing out in the northeastern corner of section 3. About two miles and a half of Northern Pacific is in the township, running through the northern portions of sections 2, 3, 4 and 5.

Some of the highest priced land in the county is to be found in Buse township and its proximity to the county seat makes it one of the most desirable farming sections of the county. There are no rural churches in the township, a fact due to the many churches in Fergus Falls.

The present township officers are as follow: Supervisors, C. E. Weigart; clerk, John F. Kottke; treasurer, Claus Albers; assessor, A. B. Palmquist; justice, N. H. Gray; constable, Searcy Wright.

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CHAPTER X.

TOWNSHIPS OF OTTER TAIL COUNTY, 1871.

RUSH LAKE TOWNSHIP.

Rush Lake township (township 135, range 39) was organized on January 3, 1871. The first election was held at the house of Handrick Kemper on January 24, 1871. On March 14, 1871, the three following unorganized congressional townships were attached to Rush Lake for all township purposes: Township 135, range 38 (now known as Otto township); township 136, range 39 (now known as Perham township), township 136, range 40 (now known as Edna township. Rush Lake was decreased on March 22, 1877, as a result of the following action of the commissioners: "Resolved that sections 6, 7 and the north part of section 18, which lie north of Otter Tail river in township 136, range 38, in Otter Tail county and in the township of Rush Lake, be and the same is hereby detached from the township of Rush Lake and hereby attached to Marion Lake for all township purposes." This petition was signed by William Featherway, A. Duncan, Cassius Camp and A. Caulb. The original petitioners for the erection of this township numbered twenty-two, and five of these were later scratched from the petition. It was dated December 31, 1870, and contained the following names: Joseph Boedigheimer, H. Dralmann, H. Kemper, H. Griesmer, J. Griesmer, Joseph A. Doll, Joseph Mui, I. Eibert, John Doll, Michael Doll, Joseph Riesterer, Ferdinand Eibert, M. Doll, John Mimawla, W. Fifuilson and Joseph Wabale. It is interesting to note that the original petition was changed several times before it was presented to the commissioners and this was evidently done to gain the required number of signers.

Rush Lake, the location of the second permanent settlement in the county, was first settled by a colony of Germans in the summer of 1866. The leader of the colony was a German Catholic priest. He and his people came from St. Joseph, Mercer county, Ohio, and within a few years, their farms were in a high state of cultivation. They had good houses and barns and large orchards, were free from debt and had money at interest. These people left Ohio on account of some religious difficulty, and under the leadership of their priest, Joseph M. Albrecht, came in a body to Otter Tail county to make their permanent home.

At the time of coming Father Albrecht was sixty-six and in excellent health. He came to this country about 1850 from Baden, Germany, where he owned property to the value of sixty thousand dollars. This property was called "Albrecht Castle." Father Joseph was not educated for the

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priesthood and while still living in Germany was married. He was a very high spirited man, full of ambition, bold and daring in his undertaking, with a determination of mind that would brook no resistance. Through the influence of his wife he was induced to enter the priesthood, and with her consent a mutual agreement was made that they would separate and each lead a spiritual life to the end of their days. Whereupon the castle was sold and both joined the Society of the Most Precious Blood. This society was found in Italy (1821) with the approval of the Pope.

In his religious views and practices Father Joseph was a little eccentric, and the following article published in the *Fergus Falls Journal* on October 9, 1885, would seem to confirm the statement:

"For some reason unknown he always avoided meeting the bishop of his diocese and could not be persuaded to meet him under any circumstances. He was very much opposed to pride and vanity, and never delivered a sermon that he would not touch upon these points. In fact it was the main theme of three-fourths of his sermons. He also reproached his fellow clergymen because they tolerated vanity in any form. He urged most vigorously upon the ladies the importance of wearing plain dresses and sunbonnets, without ribbons or flowers. When the crinolines came into fashion they were a thorn in his eyes and he grew ecstatic every time he spoke against the wearing of the detested raiment. Strangely enough his attitude against this fashion was the sole cause of his organizing a colony to go west.

"On one Sunday in the spring of 1866, several of the young ladies ventured to enter into his church wearing hoop skirts with flowers and silk ribbons on their bonnets. He noticed them during his sermon, at once made them the subjects of his remarks and closed by forbidding the ladies to enter thereafter the church so clothed. As if they were giving offense to the whole congregation it made the young ladies blush. He warned them under a penalty of some severe punishment, but the ladies, notwithstanding his stern command, did, on the afternoon of the same day, enter the church dressed as they were in the forenoon. This was more than the nervous system of Reverend Albrecht could bear. He very calmly walked to the pulpit, took down the gospel book, read a chapter appropriate to the occasion, after which he took a long hickory rod and drove them out of the church. He touched the poor little ducks moderately with the gad, but the ladies, seeing that he meant business, promptly walked out.

"This remarkable episode was reported to the bishop of his diocese, whereupon Father Joseph was suspended from his clerical functions for an indefinite time. It was shortly after this suspension that he organized his colony and moved to Rush Lake, as before stated, coming from St. Paul with wagons by the way of the old Crow Wing trail.

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"After the colony had fairly settled down, and built their winter quarters, the old missionary Pierce paid them a visit, he having heard of the difficulties in Ohio, and tried to persuade Albrecht to be reconciled with the Bishop of Minnesota, and submit himself to his church authority. This Father Joseph promised to do. Whereupon Reverend Pierce gave him authority to carry on his church work, with the further admonition that he must go to Bishop Grace and obtain his credentials of ordination in order to perform the functions of the church in the diocese of St. Paul. For this purpose Reverend Pierce supplied him with a letter of recommendation. Father Albrecht, it is stated, went to St. Paul on foot, a distance of two hundred miles, but not finding the Bishop at home, returned to Rush Lake without his credentials or any authority whatever. But he kept on with his religious functions the same as any ordained priest, and a few of his main supporters among the colony advised him not to pay any attention to the bishop, a course he afterwards followed. But Bishop Grace, receiving intelligence of his conduct, paid him a visit at this distant outpost of his diocese, and tried to reconcile him with the church. But Father Albrecht continued obstinate, claiming that he had done nothing wrong and therefore had nothing to answer for.

"After that the venerable old missionary, Weninger, came up to see him; also Bishop Seidenbush of St. Cloud, but all to no avail. After this he was excommunicated but to this he paid no attention, going on in his own way until he died. But he was not so much to blame as those who supported him in his opposition to the authority of the church. They would not permit him to obey the Bishop, fearing that he would remove him to some other congregation far from them. Father Albrecht was old and weak minded and therefore easily controlled by his supporters."

Among the first settlers in the colony who came with Father Joseph, were the following: A. Bender, Boedigheimer, Anton Doll, M. Doll, W. Doll, J. W. Doll, F. Stabb, I. Sarhbacher, J. Reister, J. A. Doll, C. Sielbernagle, V. Eifert, F. Eifert, Joseph Weiss and about six brothers and sisters of the convent.

The sole object of this colony in moving out into the far West was their wish to be alone; to establish themselves far from the busy and hustling world where they could bring up their children according to their own belief, have their own private schools and carry out their religious ideas unmolested. But they were mistaken in supposing that they could escape western civilization. After a few years of hardship on the part of the colony the Northern Pacific railroad was surveyed and located through their locality. Upon this, some of the colonists looked with hostile eyes. They could not prevent its being built, but they would have prevented it had it been possible. They were a good class of people to do business with, always paying cash for

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everything. They would not allow a store bill to run over one month. They were very close in making a bargain, but once the bargain was made they always had the cash ready to lay down. They never meddled with politics, but always voted the Democratic ticket. They were not office seekers. It required considerable urging to induce them to accept a township office, but when they did accept an office, their duties were carried out to the letter.

In the spring of 1879, the entire convent building was destroyed by fire, including the chapel, barn and other buildings. The loss amounted to about six thousand dollars. There was no insurance on the building, but sufficient money was raised to rebuild the chapel. Other buildings were also constructed, the total expense reaching about eight thousand dollars.

Reverend Albrecht died in the spring of 1884, at the age of eighty-four, and as there was no provision made for a successor, the congregation was left without a head. As soon as the last will of Albrecht was published, some difficulty arose among the members of the congregation because some were not recognized in the will as they had expected to be. The bishop offered them a priest, but the congregation would not agree. As a result a sharp division arose among them. Those who were recognized in the will owned the church properly by virtue of the will and were opposed to the proposition made by the bishop. Therefore those who were in favor of having a priest had to withdraw from the contest. Some joined the recognized church at St. Joseph and others became identified with the Catholic church at Perham, while the victorious ones sold their own personal property, as well as the property of the convent. They then borrowed some money on the church real estate and moved to Oregon, taking with them the remains of Father Joseph, who had been buried in the chapel. They exhumed his body one night, and the same night placed it on the train and started in the morning for the far West. Among those who moved to Oregon, besides the brothers and sisters of the convent, were the following: A. Bender (leader), A. Silbernagle, Joseph Reister, O. Boedigheimer, C. Felz, F. Boedigheimer and I. Boedigheimer.

Thus ended the history of the first Catholic church in the county. The descendants of these worthy people are now numbered with the most substantial and highly respected people of the county.

The present township officers are as follows: Supervisors, Jacob Jung, Joseph L. Doll and George Kidder; clerk, Joachim Doll, Sr.; treasurer, Joseph Hassler; assessor, B. F. Harris; justice, Simon Sester; constable, Ben Fithen.

Richville.

The village of Richville is located in the central western part of Rush Lake township (section 17, township 135, range 39), on the Soo line, and is one of the several towns in the county platted by the Minnesota Loan and

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Trust Company. The plat was recorded on October 13, 1903, and less than a year later it had grown to such proportions that it was asking to be incorporated with the village. A census taken on September 19, 1904, revealed the fact that there were one hundred and fifty-two inhabitants within the territory which embraced nine hundred and sixty acres—or slightly over six and a half acres for every man, woman and child in the proposed incorporation.

The petition was signed by F. Siring, Fredrick Prentice, O. A. Zimmer, C. F. Fennz, P. H. Jones, Albert Mielkek, G. F. Schroeder, W. G. Brooks, F. A. Lumbard, John Kapell, C. A. Friberg, T. K. Johnson, S. F. Johnson, J. H. Johnson, T. K. Johnson, H. P. Burgess, J. H. Eckert, H. F. Ransom, O. T. Skrurrud, Andrew Hillkosky, W. B. Devine, A. E. Cadwell, A. Medders, G. W. Eaton, G. W. Dyer and William Mack.

The election on the question of incorporation was held on October 25, 1904, and resulted in twenty-seven votes in favor and three against the proposition.

In the summer of 1905 a number of legal voters of the village decided to present a petition to the county commissioners asking for the detachment of certain territory from the corporation. This petition, signed by thirty-seven voters, represented that the three hundred and twenty acres which they asked to be detached contained a total population of only twenty-seven. The commissioners signed the petition and ordered an election held on June 13, 1905, to decide the question of detaching the said territory from the village and attaching it to the township of Rush Lake. Only one negative vote was cast out of a total of twenty-six.

Richville has a population at present of approximately three hundred and fifty. There is one church. Methodist Episcopal. The industries of the town consist at present of a bank, hotel, creamery, heading and stave mills and grain elevator. Richville is situated in the center of a rich farming section and through the co-operation of the farmers in bringing their products to this village for export it has become quite a trading center. The topography of the country makes it very convenient for the country people to have a trading center in this section and they show their appreciation by giving it every possible aid. E. G. Hayhurst is the present postmaster of the village.

The present village officers are as follow: President, W. C. Fithen; trustees, T. K. Johnson and M. M. Baker; clerk, E. W. Olson; treasurer, C. F. Franz; assessor, Adolph Schulz; justices, Ole Mebust and H. W. Schulz; constables, Jack Ash and D. E. Burgess.

AASTAD TOWNSHIP.

Aastad township (township 131, range 43) was organized March 14, 1871. The petition which was dated December 29, 1870, contained the fol-

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lowing legal voters: John Nilson Hoff, Helge Nilson Gverna, John Christianson Stemmerodden, John Erikson Kasa, Ole P. Backe, Guttoem Ole Sentasted, Austin A. Boe, Jens Erikson Platon, Peder Gunderson Bache, G. P. Backe, A. O. Anderson, Jens Rasmuson, Gilbert Syverson, Sever Hermandson, Pear Thomson Elingboe, Elland B. Brakke, Henry Olson Holo, Peder Haastad, and Anfind Olsen Aggam. It is interesting to note that the entire list of nineteen signers were all Norwegians. This gives an idea of the early settlement in this township. The first election was held on the third of the following month at the home of Osten Aslagson, who is still living in the city of Fergus Falls.

This was the sixteenth township organized in Otter Tail county. It lies in the southwestern part of the county and is bounded on the north by Buse, on the west by Western, on the south by Grant county and on the east by Tumuli township.

The taxpayers of Aastad township in 1870 were as follow: Dorothea Maria Olson, Andrew Olson, Ole J. Larson, Clearland J. Salter, Osten Aslagson, Lawrence Brainard, Torsten Loftus, Gulick Knutson, Ole Springer, Gunder Gulikson, Knut Gunderson, Thomas Brennan, John Nelson, Richmond Wolcott, Frank W. Tracy and Jens Rasmussen.

Mustinkee or Rabbit river flows through the central part of this township. It has a fall of one and one-half feet to the mile and is wide in some places, more of a slough than a river, covering much ground and forming swamps. There are some thirty odd lakes in this township, varying in size with Mud lake as the largest. This lake has an acreage of one-half section. Halfway, Bakke, Stav, Duck and Ryden lakes are all narrow but the smaller lakes bear no name. The elevation of this township ranges from one thousand two hundred and fifty feet in section 2, to one thousand one hundred feet in section 7. The St. Paul, Minneapolis & Manitoba railroad, Great Northern, as originally surveyed, passes diagonally through this township. Much of the grade had been made, when the panic of 1873 stopped further work on this road. Unfortunately for this township, but fortunately for the county when work was again resumed, the survey was run farther east and missed this township entirely, but passed through the county seat.

There has never been a town platted within the limits of this township although there were three postoffices in the southeastern part for a number of years, namely, Hastov, Squier and Littemore, but these have been taken over by rural routes and abandoned.

The present township officers are as follow: Lars Simonson, A. E. Soliah and A. P. Haarstad; clerk, John Thorson; treasurer, E. H. Bergerud; assessor, Iver Haarstad; justices, M. E. Bergerud and O. T. Hole; constables, Gust Anderson and Theodore Thoresen.

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HOBART TOWNSHIP.

The beginning of Hobart township dates from July 10, 1871, at which time it was organized as Rose Lake (township 137, range 40). On September 5, 1871, congressional township 137, range 39, (now known as Gorman township) was attached to Hobart for all township purposes. Among the early settlers of Hobart township may be mentioned the following: Austin Corbin, F. Meyer, L. Weymouth, John Lick, John L. Johnson, John Bates, James Brompton, William Hecker, Richard Sharp, G. F. Hamilton, Samuel Clary, L. D. Hendry, M. B. Hendry, J. M. Butler, R. L. Frazee, D. D. Cune, E. H. Foster, W. H. Patten, Leonard Ashley, Michael McNulty, John Smith, James Nash and D. Wellman. The latter owned the townsite of Hobart.

The first election in this township was held at the home of N. Henry on July 22, 1871. Hobart is the north central township of the county. It lies on the borders of Becker county and is in the center tier of sections. It is bounded on the west by Candor, on the south by Edna, and on the east by Gorman. This was the seventeenth township organized in Otter Tail county. Hobart lies wholly in the basin of the Red river system. The latter stream enters the township from Becker county on the north in the northeastern corner of section 3. It then flows through section 2 and south through sections 11 and 14 into Rice lake. It then leaves the lake on the southern side in section 23 and courses eastward through section 24 and leaves the township on the line between sections 13 and 24, flowing due east. There are more than twenty lakes in this township, all of which have outlets into Red river. The largest of these are Rose and Long lakes, both of which lie in the central part. Rice, Five, Scalp, Wimer, Graham, Six, Sybil, Gray, Fairy, Jim, Keyes, Gertrude and Mud lakes follow in their order of size. This township bears the distinction which only two other townships in the county can boast of, namely, that of having two railroads within its limits. The Northern Pacific which passes through sections 13, 13, 1 and 2 of this township was built in 1871 and in all probability is responsible for the early settlement of Hobart. The Soo line also came through this section in 1901 and runs through sections 32, 31 and 30.

The present township officers are as follow: Supervisors, A. E. Antonsen, Frank Pfeiffer and C. F. Katzke; clerk, George Reff; treasurer, A. M. Mayfield; assessor, H. C. Antonsen; justice, Charles Thomas; constable, A. Pfeiffer.

Hobart.

Hobart is located in the northern part of the county in Hobart township, section 2, township 137, range 40. It was platted by A. A. Wilcox for David Wellman and recorded June 3, 1873.

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Wimer Lake Resort is located in this township and county in section 3, on the shores of Wimer Lake. It was recorded September 11, 1907, and platted by O. G. Molden for Solomon F. Anderson.

SCAMBLER TOWNSHIP.

The county commissioners organized Scambler township on August 8, 1871, in response to a petition signed by a majority of the legal voters of township 137, range 43. The record states that the name Scambler was given the township according to the request of the petitioners. The first election was held at the house of R. Scambler in whose honor the township was named. Congressional township 137, range 42 (now known as Dunn township) was attached to Scambler on September 4, 1873, and remained a part of this township until it was created as an independent civil township on March 16, 1880. The reasons given by the legal voters who petitioned the commissioners to attach township 137, range 42, to the township of Scambler are given verbatim: "That township 137, range 42, does not contain legal voters enough to be organized and is also principle timber and lakes and without the prospect of being settled for sometime so as to be organized separately." The following is a list of the petitioners: O. A. Burdick, S. C. Hyde, E. T. Hardison, E. Stockwell, Sr., John Wood, C. P. Hyde, Isaac Johnson, Isaac D. Johnson, James Mathewson, S. Swetland, A. R. Baker, I. G. Dean, N. A. Hoyt, William Beaver, C. W. Hunter, Henry Beaver, R. W. Bordson, John Knutson, T. Slatt, O. R. Thompson, Erik Arubbsen, Amund Olsen, Thor Helgesen, Mantor Binhein, James T. Thorn, Hiram Thorn, O. B. Todd and T. B. Connish.

Scambler township is the extreme western township of range 137. The excellent farming land to be found in the township was responsible for its early settlement and today it has some of the best improved farms in the county. The largest lake in the township is Pelican, about half of which is in Dunn township to the east. Other lakes in the township are Tamarack, Sand, Pete, Harrison, Rankley and Grove. The surface of the township is rolling, but not so broken as to render much of the land unfit for cultivation.

The first approach to a village in the township was made in the northern part of section 2, where an embryonic village by the name of Pelican Lake was flourishing in the latter part of the seventies. Here were clustered some dozen buildings, including a store and a blacksmith shop. For several years a postoffice was maintained here, but it was discontinued in 1905 when the rural free delivery was established out of Pelican Rapids. There was another postoffice at Bangor in section 34 which was maintained until the free delivery caused it to be discontinued in 1903. At the

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present time there is not a store at either place and the township is not able to boast of a village of any kind.

There have been been two summer resorts platted on the north shore of Pelican lake, Clear View and Pelican Beach. The former is located in section 1 and was platted by Martin Aalberg for Jennie M. King in the fall of 1900, the plat being recorded on August 4 of the same year. Pelican Beach is in section 2 and was platted by O. C. Molden in 1912 for O. M. and Cora E. Carr. The plat was recorded on August 19, 1912.

The first church was established in the township in the seventies and stood in section 33. A cemetery was maintained in connection with the church, and another burial ground was located in section 27. Today there are two churches in the township, both being in section 33. The town hall is in section 22.

The present township officers are as follow: Supervisors, H. J. Hanson, P. E. Reynolds and John Sim; clerk, W. W. Sherman; treasurer, Simon Olson; assessor, S. A. Syverson; justice, Ole T. Berg.

MAINE TOWNSHIP.

The township of Maine (township 134, range 41) was organized by the county commissioners on September 5, 1871. The first election was held at the home of R. F. Adley, father of county superintendent Adley, on September 23, 1871. The township was named Maine at the request of Mr. Adley, a native of that state, and one of the earliest settlers within the present limits of the township.

The petition for the organization of this township was dated September 4, 1871, and contained the following names: A. Scribner, Joseph Nagle, Hug. Hunter, Allen Young, William McCall, William Turville, David F. Spalding, B. L. Bull, John Braun, Peter Peterson, L. H. Barry, G. A. Clark, Ole Olson, H. W. Putnam and N. Huse.

Maine township is fairly well supplied with lakes, the chief ones being Dead, Lost, Twin, Pickerel, Round, Peterson, Mud, Leon and Duck. Red river flows through the southern part of the township from east to west and an enlargement of the river in the southwestern part of the township is known as Lost lake.

Maine township was settled early in the history of the county, but so far it has never had a village platted within its limits. Three places have served as postoffices in the past, but all of them are now discontinued. The first postoffice was known as Maine and stood in the northwestern part of section 23. This little settlement came as near being a village as any place in the township and at one time boasted of a store, blacksmith shop and cemetery, all three of which did a flourishing business. Long ago this store and blacksmith shop died a natural death and the only thing which is still

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in business at the erstwhile hamlet is the cemetery. Forty years ago there was a rural department store on the shore of Lost lake in the southeastern corner of section 19, but this too has passed into oblivion. As long ago as 1880 there was a store and blacksmith shop at Monitor Falls, section 35, along the banks of the Red river, and for many years a postoffice was maintained at this place. There are three churches in the township, located in sections 15, 23 and 32, respectively.

The present township officers are as follow: Supervisors, Charles Johnson, Bat Moore and A. O. Christianson; clerk, James Burns; treasurer, August Sandberg; assessor, H. Muse; justices, P. R. Sande and August Sandberg; constables, H. A. Northup and W. Dinsmore.

NIDAROS TOWNSHIP.

Nidaros township first made its appearance among the townships of Otter Tail county on September 5, 1871. The first election was held at the house of Mathias Oleson on the 23rd of the same month. The petition for the erection of this township was dated September 1, 1871, and contained the names of fifteen legal voters, every one of whom was a native of Norway. The list follows: Mekal Amunson, Ingebrit Hogenson, Petter Petterson, Peter Albert, Mathias Olsen, Andrias Olsen, Haagen Peterson, Ole Jorgensen, Hans Mikelsen, Roland Haagensen, Iver Anker, Bernt Bersen, Seffenias Borsen, Andrias Maalson and Thon Hartvik.

Nidaros township is bounded by Girard on the north, Folden on the east, Leaf Mountain on the south and Clitherall on the west. Parts of two large lakes are to be found in the township, Stuart and Clitherall. Other lakes within the township are Syverson, Brederson and Bull Head. The surface of the township is rolling, but most of it is under cultivation.

The township was greatly benefited by the building of the Northern Pacific branch through the northern part in 1882. This brought the township in touch with the county seat and afforded a better market for farm products. The old paths through the woods and around the lakes have given way to good roads and in this way the farmers have been enabled to reach the railroad with their products. Early in the history of the township a Lutheran church was built on the western end of Syverson lake, in section 21, and this is still the center of an active religious life.

There are two flourishing villages in Nidaros, Clitherall and Vining, both being located on the Northern Pacific.

The present township officers are as follow:: Supervisors, T. B. Duhn, Christ Johnson and J. A. Anderson; clerk, O. C. Ukkelberg; treasurer, O. E. Herbranson; assessor, C. H. Leth; justices, O. F. Erickson and E. R. Moulton; constables, Arthur Anthony and Isack Olson.

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Clitherall.

The village of Clitherall is the oldest village in Otter Tail county, although it was not platted until several years after it became a thriving little trading center. It was settled in 1865 by the non-polygamous Mormons, who were the first settlers in the county. The Whitings were among the first settlers in the village and it was on the land of Lucius A. and Diademma Whiting, that the village was platted by George A. Burbank in the fall of 1881. The original town stood on section 6. The plat was recorded in the office of the register of deeds on October 17, 1881.

According to the petition asking for incorporation which was presented to the commissioners on September 1, 1898, the village covered about one hundred and twenty acres and contained one hundred and seventy-six inhabitants. The following legal voters signed the petition asking for an incorporation: G. W. Whiting, S. N. Lundquist, J. S. Kotschaver, K. H. Robbin, L. E. Larson, S. Halverson, Jul. Morstad, J. T. Bjerkvedt, Tom Tornquest, Ed. Johnson, A. Taylor, J. E. Curtis, Martin Iverson, B. Otterdahl, W. Smith, Lars Assleson, A. M. Bader, A. Wilson, E. E. Whiting, L. I. Langness, R. H. Smith, A. L. Fletcher, Alonzo Whiting, Lin Lundquist, J. B. Hoff, Ben Whiting, E. Fletcher, B. J. Hoff, Bert Whiting, Andru O. Moe, Chancey Whiting, Albert Rots and Robert Halvorsen.

The petition was granted by the commissioners on September 1, 1898, and an election ordered for the fourth of the following month. Of the twenty-seven votes cast all but one were in favor of incorporation.

The present village officers are as follow: President, A. Gustafson; trustees, L. I. Langness, R. T. Robinson and H. A. Gosslee; clerk, A. Larson; treasurer, J. Severson; assessor, L. C. Whiting; constable, H. O. Saetre.

Vining.

The village of Vining is located in the northeastern part of Nidaros township on the branch line of the Northern Pacific running between Wadena junction and Fergus Falls. It was laid out by L. R. Lathrop in the fall of 1882 for Ole and Anna Johnson, J. E. and Johanna Geysler and Andrew T. and Anna K. Lund. When a number of citizens, interested in having the town incorporated, took a census on March 17, 1909, they found two hundred and ten inhabitants scattered over the seven hundred and sixty acres which they asked to be included within the incorporated village. A petition was presented to the commissioners on March 23, 1909, asking for a special election on the question of incorporation. This petition was signed by the following legal voters of the proposed incorporated village: Charles A. Lund, Ole T. Nyhus, O. A. Lund, Andrew T. Lund, Ole C. Olson, Lander Manson, Harry Olson, T. H. Froslie, G. Gulbranson, Edward Lund, Carl F. Berg, Christ E. Berg, A. B. Trana, Andrew Wal-

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seth, George Monson, H. R. Hogenson, Andrew Gunderson, John Funderud, Jr., Richard Haugenson, Nils N. Kloystad, Hans Christenson, William Timroth, John A. Timroth, M. S. Nyberg, J. F. Olson, H. A. Lund, John O. Hoff, and Oscar Anderson. The petition was granted and the election set for Tuesday, April 20, 1909. The vote showed that there were only nine voters in the village out of forty opposed to incorporation.

Vining is now a village of about two hundred and twenty-five. There are two Norwegian Lutheran churches in the village. There is at present a bank, hotel, creamery, but the chief industry of the town is the buying and selling of the grain and the trade along this line has risen to such proportions that it requires three elevators to take care of the season's crops. This is also good evidence that the farms are very productive. The elevators are owned by the Andrews Grain Company, the Farmers Elevator Company and Thowald H. Froslie. A. B. Trana is the present station agent.

In addition to the two villages, there are four summer resorts which have been platted since 1902, namely: Sunny Side, Nirvana, Fox Park and Camp Idlewood.

The great poet, Shakespeare, has said "What's in a name," and he who named the attractive summer resort in the northwestern part of Nidaros township with the bright name "Sunny Side" must have had a hearty appreciation of what it takes to attract the wayfarer. It was platted by Martin Aalberg for Andrew T. and Anne K. Lund and the plat was recorded August 26, 1902.

One of the most pleasant summer resorts of Otter Tail county rejoices in the name of Nirvana. Located in the northern part of Nidaros township, on the east bank of Stuart lake, it occupies a picturesque spot pleasantly suggestive of the poetic name which it bears. It was platted by J. Q. Burbank for Charles G. Bade in the fall of 1904, the plat being recorded in the register of deeds office on September 15.

The plat of Fox Park was recorded June 20, 1905, by J. Q. Burbank for John N. and Mildred M. Fox. It is located in section 4, on the shores of Stuart lake.

The plat of Camp Idlewood was recorded November 16, 1907. It was laid out by Martin Aalberg for H. L. and Bertha L. Shirley. It is located in section 4 on the western shores of Stuart lake.

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CHAPTER XI.

TOWNSHIPS OF OTTER TAIL COUNTY, 1872-73.

PERHAM TOWNSHIP.

The petition for the erection of Perham township was dated February 17, 1872, and contained the names of the following legal voters of the township: Peter Mohr, Frederi Santebin, John Rocke, Friedrich Mohr, John Kahler, Lorenz Rush, Michel Schmitz, John Berens, George Seifert, Charles Graety, Jacob Iverson, Joseph Lein, Balthason Fuchs, Jofan Lorbift Lungen, ——— ———, ——— ———, Andrews Liblum, John Leukof, William Harrles, Joseph Tim, Adam Gerber, George Allsbredt, Johan ———, Albert Wilerof and Lewis Everling. There were three names among the list of original signers which could not be deciphered, as they were written in German script and very illegible.

The beginning of Perham township dates from March 19, 1872, at which time it was organized under the name of Marion Lake township (township 136, range 39). The first election was held at the house of B. Fuchs on April 6, 1872. On the same day it was organized the territory comprehended within Dead lake (township 135, range 40) was attached to it for all township purposes. The name of Marion lake was changed to that of Perham by an act of the Legislature which reads as follows: "That the name of the town of Marion Lake, in Otter Tail county, he and is hereby changed to the name of Perham." (Approved March 1, 1877).

This township lies in the Red river basin and is drained by the waters of that river. Mud lake and Little Pine lake, both forming part of the system of the Red river, extend into this township on the north in sections 1, 2 and 3. The Red river enters this township on the east in the southeastern part of section 13 and meanders south through sections 24, 25 and 36 where it leaves the township in the extreme southeastern corner. This system proves an excellent drainage for this region and makes the land exceptionally good for farming purposes. The farms rank with the best in the county and are kept in excellent condition. The farm buildings are modern and add to the natural beauty of the country. There are several large dairies in this township which are modern in every respect. The Northern Pacific passes through this township, running through sections 24, 23, 25, 10, 9, 4 and 5. This road was completed in 1871 and is undoubtedly responsible for the early settlement and organization of this township. This village, Perham, is the only station on the Northern Pacific in this township.

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The present township officers are as follow: Supervisors, John Karsina, George Alstadt and John Buechler; clerk, F. G. Wasche; treasurer, Louis Huss; assessor, P. Wasche; justice, Joseph Gerber; constable, John Hoffman.

Perham.

The village of Perham was platted and surveyed by Joseph E. Turner, March 6, 1873, for the Lake Superior & Pugit Sound Company of Maine. Thomas H. Canfield was the president of this corporation at that time. It was incorporated by an act of the Legislature, approved February 14, 1881 (Special Laws, 1881, pages 222-227). The act vests the government of the corporation in three trustees, two justices of the peace, treasurer, assessor, marshal and recorder. Officers were to be elected annually and the first election was set for the third Monday of March, 1881. The act named Henry Drahman, Louis Struett and S. Caughey as judges of election and A. S. Wimer as clerk at this first election. The act covers seventeen sections and provides in a general way for the government of the village and the management of such various municipal affairs as were liable to arise. The growth of Perham has been rather slow and yet it must be said that it has constantly grown.

The population of Perham is approximately one thousand seven hundred. H. Kreuger is the present mayor, with Henry Holt, marshal, and George Young, clerk. There are two Catholic churches, Polish and German; two Lutheran churches; a Methodist Episcopal and an Episcopalian. The Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, Knights of Columbus, Independent Order of Foresters, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, Modern Woodmen of America, Fraternal Order of Eagles and Sons of Hermann all have thriving chapters in the village. The electric light plant is a municipal corporation. The city hall was erected at a cost of ten thousand dollars and for a village of this size it is one of the best in the state. The city has a well equipped fire department with all the necessary paraphernalia for fighting fires.

Perham is accommodated with a high school, which is fully up to the standard. The building, a ten-room, brick structure, was erected in 1899. The St. James Catholic hospital is really a public institution, being maintained by donations from Catholics and their friends for the benefit of the public generally irrespective of religious beliefs. The building contains seventy rooms and was erected in 1901. It is in charge of the Catholic Sisters and is always filled.

The Perham State Bank and the First National Bank have charge of all the banking carried on in the village. The Merchants hotel and the

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Grand Pacific take care of all the transient trade of the town The largest industry in the village is the Globe Milling Company. This flour-mill runs day and night and its products are shipped to many foreign markets. The Perham Milling Company is a close rival of the former and its products are equally well known. The next industry in point of size is the Schmidt Wagon Works. This company makes wagons and sleighs. August Haut keeps a brick yard. The Marckel Lumber Company and the Dower Lumber Company are the two largest lumber yards. The Marckel company's warehouse and implement room is the largest in the state for a town of this size, being three hundred feet long and is constructed of brick. It was finished in 1914. Perham does a large shipping business in grain, flour, potatoes and live stock. The business and professional interests of the village for the present year follow: Agent, Murtie (directory of Perham) Price; auto livery, Andrew W. Lacking; bakery, Fred H. Davis; barber, Albert G. Henn, Casper W. Lotterer; blacksmith, John L. Sawyer, Henry Schmidt; dentist, Harry Prichett, Benjamin Esser; creamery, Perham Creamery Association, John Stege, secretary; Co-operative Creamery Company; druggist, Michael J. Gans, Bernard L. Kemper; furniture, Herman Koenitzer; general store, Drahmann Brothers, Perham Co-operative Company, John Stege, president; hardware, Amos Marckel, Kukowski Brothers, Fred Bauck, Jr., Paul E. Preuss; harness, Jacob Palubicki, Philip Ososki, John Hall; insurance, German Township Mutual Fire Insurance Company, Frankk Wasche, secretary; jeweler, F. A. Miller, Peter Miller; lawyer, Michael J. Daly; livery, James B. Miller; meat market, Bever Palzer; milliner, Mrs. Olive L. Becker; motion picture theater, Bijou, H. E. Briggs, manager; newspaper, Perham *Enterprise* and *Bulletin*, Harvey D. Small; physician, Jacob L. Bethold, Frank J. Brabec, John Esser; photograph supplies, Christ Raven, Henry J. Davies; real estate, Charles Pancratz, Perham Land and Investment Company; resort, Grand View Heights (three miles from Perham); shoes, Benjamin Lucking; shoemaker, Henry Geitmann; surveyor, Charles C. Dirkes; Telephone, Perham Telephone Company; tailor, Frank J. Kalka; veterinary, William P. Newman; wagon maker, Mathias Burelbach; warehouse, Perham Potato Warehouse Company.

The present village officers are as follow: President, John Esser; trustees, John Ladner, Henry Schmidt and A. N. Lucking; clerk, G. M. Young; treasurer, J. H. Shea; justices, M. J. Gans and C. W. Lotterer; constables, John Pockwinski and O. Caughey.

EFFINGTON TOWNSHIP.

The township of Effington (township 136, range 38) was created by the county commissioners on March 21, 1872, and given the name of Arlington. The first election was held on the 6th of the following month at the

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house of a man by the name of Sea. At the July session the same year, the commissioners ordered that "The name of the township formerly called Arlington be hereby changed to Affington." Whether the initial letter of the word "Affington" should be "E" or whether it was really called Affington until changed by order of the commissioners is a question which is not solved by the commissioners' records. Apparently the name should have been written Effington when the change was ordered on July 17, 1872.

The names of the original signers of this petition, which was dated February 15, 1872, are as follow: Paul Niecke, Emel Nusche, Otto Tonens, Mutt Evans, Vollinitin Jenson, William Miyser, John Muram, Hinrich Prohl, John Prohl, John Miller, Frederiches Miller, Wilhelm Peters, John Witt, W. E. Hyatt and Hoodgman.

Effington township has only a few lakes, the largest being Block, Fish, Seih, Twin, Pearch and Hannes. The topography of the township presents no striking features, the most of it being level, with only an occasional elevation which might be called a hill. Settled largely by Germans it has always been well to the front as an agricultural community. No village has ever been platted within its limits and no railroad has ever crossed its borders. The life of its people has therefore been wholly devoted to farming pursuits.

The history of this township is so closely related to that of the adjoining township, Leaf Valley, in Douglas county, that the two in reality have but one, at least as far as the German population is concerned.

While the townships of Newton and Rush Lake were settled by colonies of many families, all firmly united by the ties of religion, the opening of this wilderness to settlement was a result of the determined efforts of but one family, and for the most part by only one member of the same. It is not too much to say that Peter Sieh was the father of Effington.

When in 1868, the "Iron Chancellor" had laid his heavy hand on a half dozen pretty German states, annexing them to the kingdom of Prussia, discontent ruled supreme among the inhabitants thereof. Thousands of young men left to avoid the draft for the three years of military service which was made compulsory. And where else could they proceed, but to the land of freedom, the land of Franklin and Washington, of whose ideal lives and patriotic deeds their school books had related.

Hundreds of thousands of families followed in their wake making one of the largest immigrations in the following decade that the world has ever seen. At this juncture there lived in Buffalo or New York a young sailor who, during the season of navigation, traversed the Great Lakes. He had left the old farm in northern Germany years before against the wishes of his parents who had expected him, the eldest of their six children, to take

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the farm into his hands according to the custom of the country. This young sailor was Peter Sieh.

But Peter, driven from home because of his thirst for knowledge of the world, hired himself to a sea captain as cabin boy. Later on he became a sailor on German and English shipping vessels and, after absorbing a course in a seaman's college at Hamburg, he came to the United States well versed in English and German literature. He had a good knowledge of the world, and it would seem that he would have been the last one to exchange the charm of cities and adventurous sailor life for the uniformity and quietude of a rural home. But when his brother Frank renounced his allegiance to the king of Prussia and came over to this country, their parents promised to follow if they could find a suitable section of country in which to get land. Peter was alert and ready for the task. Stowing his choicest authors together with his compass in his satchel, the sailor headed for the west. He looked over the states of Iowa and Illinois but found the climate rather dry for his taste. Hearing of the park region of Minnesota, through which the Fort Garry stage road ran, he steered that way, arriving in the fall of 1866 at Alexandria. There was plenty of wild land between St. Paul and the stockade, but he had heard rumors that the Northern Pacific railroad would be laid by the way of Otter Tail city and his intention was to get somewhere close to that road.

Accordingly he added some provisions to his stock, took out his compass, shouldered his rifle and went about five miles along the Fort Garry road where he found a wagon track switching to the north. He pushed on through the dense woods of northern Douglas county until he struck the beautiful little prairie in the township of Leaf Valley, Douglass county. On the southern border of it he found several sturdy Americans living at the very outpost of civilization. The most were from Indiana, whence the prairie took its name. But the sailor did not cast anchor there. He crossed the township near the northern border of the prairie near where the county line between Douglas and the land of the Otter Tail had been surveyed. There he found the little creek that flowed out of the largest and prettiest lake he had found in the wilderness north of Douglas county. It was Effington's largest sheet of water that bears the prosaic but distinctive name of Fish lake. This is the head of the Chippewa river, and the land through which this creek meandered, was the finest sections of farming land that the lonely traveler had ever laid his eyes on. It was a rich sandy loam, overspreading the gently sloping ground, where all kinds of wild grasses and bushes grew in profusion.

The explorer, however, went on in the dense woods, through the thickets, over marshes, across creeks and around clear little lakes covered with all

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kinds of water fowl, while in every nook was found the houses of the industrious muskrat. Deer were to be seen on every side and all kinds of small game were to be found in abundance. When he struck the north shore of the small lake through which now runs the line dividing sections 33 and 34, a streak of the finest timber looked before him and here he built his camp-fire for the night. Small wonder that he said to himself: "Eureka, I have found it." So he built a log shanty, the first habitation of a white man in the brush between Indiana and Parkers Prairie. Here he lived through the winters of 1866 and 1867, getting his mail and provisions from Alexandria twenty-three miles distant, and spending his days in hunting and exploring the surrounding country.

During the winter he had informed his parents and brother Frank of the glorious country; of its climatic and geological conditions so akin to the native land, old Schleswig-Holstein. In the spring of 1867 he went to St. Cloud to meet them. He found his mother, Frank and three sisters awaiting him. The father Peter Sieh, Sr., and one daughter remained in the old country to sell the property. In the last part of March they reached Peter's winter residence and having the tedious journey of one hundred miles walk behind them looked hopefully to the future. Like all other early pioneers they felt sure that one or the other of the great railroads would cross in convenient proximity to their claims. Peter had staked out a quarter section on the south side of the county line, which for the most part, contained prairie land. Frank was so charmed with the fine tract that Peter gave him his choice, when he took the claim next to it. Frank then went with the ox team to St. Cloud to haul provisions, while the other five members of the family made themselves comfortable in Peter's winter quarters on Mumm's lake. Frank had a tough time of it, but after an absence of nearly two weeks, he reached the county line in good spirits, and brought with him Charles Peets and wife, he a strapping fellow, who, as soon as he had looked over the lay of the land, declared that the only claim worth taking in this "Goll darned Siberian country" was the one that Peter now held. Peter thought most probably that he could not afford to endanger the future of his settlement by losing one family out of the two of which it consisted, and deeded his claim to the new comer. He now surveyed what was to become section thirty-four in the present township of Effington, homesteaded on the southwest quarter. The brothers broke fifteen acres of prairie on Peter's place. Those fifteen acres—the only prairie in Effington—constituted the first cultivated field of the township. Soon after the brothers built a house on this claim from which they carried on their farming operations.

The following article bearing on the early history of Effington town-

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ship appeared in *Wheelock's Weekly* in its issue of June 10, 1897, and is given in full:

Contemporaneous with Peter Sieh's arrival, a large party of Catholic immigrants from Stearns county had settled in and around Millerville township, where they erected a church, several stores, etc. This settlement branched into Effington and most of the settlers in the west end came from that direction later in the seventies.

Paul Nuske, a young painter from Berlin, took a claim in the Effington woods, living there with his brother Emil until 1873 when they separated. Paul having located his claim wrongly, becoming discouraged through other misfortunes, together with the privations and fatigue of frontier life, was taken violently insane.

The first to arrive the following spring were Henry Proehl and wife. Mr. Proehl had been on a land seeking expedition to Todd county the fall previous, but could not find any land that could be compared with the fine farming lands of Carver county, his former home. In the spring he had bought an ox team outfit and with several other Carverites started for Douglas and Otter Tail counties for the land of hunting and trapping.

Then came Jacob Kutterman with his family, settling on section 35. He lost his arm in a threshing machine cylinder in 1873. He had to leave the farm after the grasshopper years, and became widely known as the builder and proprietor of the Union hotel at Evansville, Douglas county.

William Meyer and family next arrived, settling farther back in the brush than anyone had done. Near him settled the Carsons, a Swedish couple, who had the misfortune in March, 1879, to lose their little three-year-old boy. The boy had been left penned up in the house by the mother who had gone on an errand to a neighbor's. Mr. Carlson was not at home. When she returned the child had mysteriously disappeared. The neighbors were aroused and a search was made. Then the supervisors took the case in hand, and ordered out every man in the township. For two more days the people systematically scoured the surrounding woods and lakes, as yet icebound, but not a sign of the missing child could be found. There was no snow. Some of the people claimed to have seen moccasin tracks, but were doubted, and, on account of Mrs. Carlson, the wildest stories were afloat. A short while after a large bear was taken by old man Hengen and his boys, and the fate of the little one was settled in the minds of most people. The Carlsons later removed to Grant county. About 1895 the papers stated that Mrs. Carlson had gone up to the Fort Totten reservation to reclaim her child (now a young man) who had been kidnapped by a band of Turtle Mountain Indians when an infant. The young man was identified beyond a doubt, but refused to follow his mother home.

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Next came into the settlement John Miller with his family, including his sons Rudolph and Fred, and in the fall William Peters and John Witt arrived from the south. They located their claims and erected shanties that fall, living and "baching" through the winter near Fish lake.

A large camp of Chippewas camped on the lake that winter. Skins being high in price, they lived high, got plenty of fire-water and raised all kinds of trouble during the nights, so that their shouting and yelling would re-echo from the distant Leaf mountains, keeping many a faint-hearted individual from sleeping. The settlers tried to find out where the Indians procured the stuff; but failed. The band left without doing any harm. Henry Proehl has related how some of the bucks, having been sent to Millerville for provisions, on their way back to camp were so drunk that one of them would be hugging snow almost all the way, when the other, in trying to help him on his feet, would roll over him. One had two jugs hanging over his shoulder while the other had started with a sack of flour, but had only the sack left when coming to his wigwam. The flour formed a white streak from Millerville to the lake.

To William Peters probably was due the fact that there was no outbreak of these Chippewas. Whenever they visited him, and that was very often, he would give them generous treatment by regaling them with hot pancakes, the making of which was one of Peters' chief accomplishments. The Indians were very fond of these pancakes and Peters has often told of his feats in trying to appease the cravings of three or four hungry bucks at a time with his frying pan. To him it is due that the New Ulm atrocities of 1862 were not repeated in this part of the state, and, if a grateful posterity ever build him a monument, it should represent him amidst his dusky friends trying to appease their ravenous appetites with pancakes.

Early in 1868 Peter Sieh had heard, when at Alexandria, that a man from Iowa had erected a store on the little prairie to the west of Effington. One day he and Henry Proehl started off with their axes for Parkers Prairie. There they found Henry Asseln, the pioneer storekeeper, who had just got ready to sell kerosene at sixty cents a gallon, New Orleans black strap for one dollar a gallon and all other things in proportion. Asseln promised that if they would mark out a line for a road he would send men to cut out the east part of it, while the men from the Schleswig-Holstein settlement would open the four or five miles on the west. This was done and the settlers were glad to have a store and postoffice within eight miles of them. A mail route from Osakis to Otter Tail City via Parkers Prairie was established the same year. There was now a road through the township from the Indiana prairie to Parkers Prairie and it helped a great deal in drawing settlers thither.

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About this time Holquist and Steverson settled in the northeast corner of the township. W. E. Hyatt erected a commodious house just across the Parkers Prairie line on the only forty-acre tract that he took in Effington. The rest of his land lay in Parkers Prairie. A man by the name of Hodgeman, a kind of a factotum to the Hyatt family, took up a claim adjoining the latter's. He seemed to possess little thrift and sold out two years later to Deitrich Thies.

Valentine Thonnes left the parent farm on the Indiana prairie, squatting on the claim that he cultivates today. The E. F. Jenson family and that of Frank Revering arrived in 1871 and Henry Trachte and Peter Raap in 1872. Peter Sieh, Sr., came over to rejoin his family in 1870. His coming was calamitous to the settlement, for on his ocean journey he had contracted the small-pox which broke out in the neighborhood just after his arrival. Hardly a family escaped the terrible scourge. Several children died, and of the adults there some like Henry Proehl and William Meyer, whose honest countenances, after passing through the ordeal, appeared as if old Nick himself had threshed peas thereon.

In the latter part of the sixties it cost eight to twelve cents a bushel to get wheat threshed. Very few or no horses at all being obtainable, oxen were put to the horse-power, but it was mighty hard work to keep up motion and every now and then a rest had to be taken to allow some poor Dick or Harry to get over his dizziness. The oxen, not being accustomed to the double-quickstep round dance, would sometimes act as if crazy, roll on their backs and cut all kinds of capers.

In 1869 the hopes of the settlers of this and surrounding townships of getting the Northern Pacific railroad within handy reach were blasted by the building of that line as far off as Wadena.

Most of the able-bodied men in the settlement went to Perham that fall in order to earn a few dollars helping in its construction. The wheat raised in those years, over home consumption, had to be hauled up to Perham, at first, by the way of Millerville and Battle Lake, later on via of the Parkers Prairie and Otter Tail City road, a full fifty-mile haul.

The year 1872 marks the beginning of a new epoch in the settlement's history. Not only were the days of the squatter at an end but township 131, range 38, was organized and in consequence the first legal highway established. The voters were split in two factions, one with Hyatt as leader and Matthew Evans as lieutenant, winning the offices by one majority. Hyatt was by far the shrewdest politician that this town could ever boast of, Mike Schneider, "The Wild Dutchman," probably excepted, and his capableness in managing a caucus was indeed remarkable. In the spring of the same year (1872) the bitter fight over the removal of the county seat

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from Otter Tail City to Fergus Falls, and the consequent election for the purpose, annexing this part of the county to Wadena county, took place. All voters were present except W. E. Hyatt and F. Miller, who held a caucus by themselves, electing Hyatt with unanimity a delegate. The other caucus had chosen Mr. Holquist, who, when coming up to Fergus, was not recognized by the committee of credentials and Hyatt represented the town as being solidly against any county splitting scheme.

As the St. Paul & Pacific had that spring started the construction from St. Cloud to Moorhead of the present main line of the Manitoba railroad system, there was a chance to earn a few dollars, of which many a poor settler availed himself. But, alas, the work of grading, when nearly finished, had to be abandoned and for six years there was nothing done above Melrose, making that place the nearest railroad station to the south where wheat and other produce had to be marketed, sixty miles distant, until about 1878. After the grasshopper time, farmers could haul the produce to Wadena, and the next year to the nearest stations on the St. Paul, Minneapolis & Manitoba railroad, Brandon and Garfield, thirteen and seventeen miles away, respectively.

The first settler of this township (Peter Sieh) had now seen all his plans as to locating his colony near at least one of the great trunk lines overthrown. The removal of the county seat crushed his last hope of obtaining a railroad to go north and south to Otter Tail City. Before the lands were thrown open to settlers he had given up his squatting right to John Mumm, who had married one of his sisters. Not quite discouraged then, Sieh had squatted the remaining claim in section 34, to which he obtained homestead papers in 1872. He built a house here in which he lived with his parents until 1874. He then sold out to a newcomer and went to Washington territory to find a location near the ocean. He has, as a surveyor, seen a large part of western Washington, living there several years. He taught out west, but advised his friends in Minnesota not to remove to the coast, as it was not a good farming country. Later on Sieh went to Idaho, where he got a paying situation with the Northern Pacific railroad.

But Effington, how did this township receive its name? Who was its godfather? It was the genial Matt Evans. When the first town meeting had been held in 1872 the voters could not agree as to the new baby's name. The majority wanted it to be christened after its first settler or his mother, Mrs. Anna Sieh, the names of Anna or Annaheim being the ones most favored, and, doubtless, most appropriate, commemorating the name of the first white woman in town. This was vigorously opposed by Hyatt, who wanted to stand sponsor and therefore suggested "Arlington," the name of a place where he had lived before. But Matt was there also. He had lit-

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erary tastes and had even read a novel (he claimed himself to had read several), and in this novel had occurred the name of Effington. Matt thought it the most beautiful name he had ever heard and pushed it to the front, but failed to get any support and the whole matter was dropped. When the first assessor came to Fergus for his instructions the county auditor told him that the town had to get named now, and if the young man did not name it he, the auditor, would have to assume the sponsorship. What should our young assessor do? He was no particular friend of Sieh's, much more though of Hyatt; but then there was Matt, who was courting the young man's sister, too, persistently. Well, we all know how a young fellow, who is sparking the first named young fellow's pretty sister would act. No, he could not go back on Matt, and Effington it will be for the time eternal.

The present township officers are as follows: Supervisors, Charles Luedke, G. A. Huwe and Clemens Suchy; clerk, George J. Kraemer; treasurer, Carl Schauland; assessor, Thomas Koep; justices, Gust Huwe and J. Kraemer; constables, Theodore Koep and Arthur Wright.

NORWEGIAN GROVE TOWNSHIP.

The heavy immigration of Norwegians into congressional township 136, range 44, in the early seventies, was responsible for a petition from these worthy citizens for the creation of the above described territory into a civil township. This petition was presented to the county commissioners on January 7, 1873, and at the request of the petitioners the township was called Norwegian Grove. The first election was ordered held on the 25th of the same month at the house of Ole Johanneson Tolrud. The commissioner's record states that August Lorentzen, J. Torkelson and Arne Engebritson were to post the notices and have general charge of the election.

The petition asking for the organization of the township was dated December 30, 1872, and contained the following signatures: Ole Johanneson Tolrud, Martin Johnson, Ole K. Gullekson, Arne Olson, Ole A. Lund, Ole Olson Holt, Hans Thompson, Johanny G. Tollerud, D. Christenson, E. C. Thomkins, Arne Engebritson, Torsten Olsen, Brede Olson, Edward Elasen, E. M. Vungrud, Hans Anderson, Andreas Erikson, Paul Visenstad, Carl Hansen, Andreas Johanson, Jacob Torkelson, Hans Hanson Husby, Ole Neilsen Viste and Ole T. Nyhaugen.

This township was originally a part of Wilkin county, but by the legislative act of 1872 and the subsequent election provided by the act, it was attached to Otter Tail county along with the five other congressional townships of range 44, which are now a part of Otter Tail county. Two townships were organized out of range 44 on January 7, 1873, Norwegian Grove and Western; two others, Oscar and Trondhjem, were organized at the

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July session the same year. All of these townships except Western were settled nearly entirely by natives of Norway.

Norwegian Grove township has a fair share of lakes, the largest being Olaf, Grove, Jacob, Annie, Alfred and Gobs. Most of the township is drained by tributaries of the south branch of Buffalo river, which enters the county from Wilkin on the west. Generally speaking nearly all of the township is excellent farming territory and it was this fact which brought in so many settlers early in the history of the county.

The first postoffice was called Norwegian Grove and was located in the central eastern part of section 9. As early as 1880 there was a store, blacksmith shop and church at this place, but now there is nothing left but the church, the postoffice being discontinued in 1905. For some years there was a postoffice by the name of Center Grove in section 28, but it was discontinued in 1903, when rural free delivery was established out of Pelican Rapids. The first churches were established 10 and 26, and at a later period churches were built in section 4 and 6. Cemeteries are maintained in connection with all four churches. The town hall is in the northwestern corner of section 22.

The present township officers are as follow: Supervisor, John T. Maasjo; clerk, Anton N. Benterud; treasurer, John E. Maasjo; justices, Peter Klovstad and E. O. Aas; constables, M. J. Tollerud and C. O. Sundby.

WESTERN TOWNSHIP.

A petition for the organization of congressional township 131, range 44 (now Western township), was dated November 4, 1872, but as the records show no regular meeting for November this petition was not acted upon until the January meeting. The list of signers is as follow: Leley Goulden, William W. Dewey, J. P. Bates, L. J. Hodges, Windsor Goulden, Knut Thompson, E. Robbins, D. Burrows, William H. Davenport, J. K. Glenn, Jr., Ole E. Olson, Win A. Wentworth, Joseph Hollbrook, Erwin Davenport, A. W. Coats, Wilson Davenport, James Burnes, B. A. Davenport and Stev Hanson. This petition was granted January 7, 1873.

At the same time and with the same signatures as those on the petition for the organization of Western township, another petition was presented to the county commissioners and granted at the same session. This petition read as follows: "We the citizens of the said township 131, range 44, would like you to extend our boundary north to the Red river, taking in all the fraction of township 132, range 44 (now Orwell township), lying south of the Red river." This was done for civil and criminal jurisdiction. The first election was held at the house of E. Robbins on the 25th of January, 1873. This was the twenty-fourth township organized by the commission-

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ers and came into existence at the same time as Norwegian Grove. But even though it was organized early, the settlements in this township were not so rapid as in some of the others. This township lies in the extreme southeastern corner of the county and is bounded on the west and south by Wilkin and Grant county, respectively. On the north it is bounded by Orwell and on the east by Aastad township. This township is out of the immediate range of the lake region yet it has one rather large lake within its limits, namely Upper Lightning lake. This has a very peculiar shape. It is long and very narrow, extending over four sections in length, yet the widest part is very little over one-half mile.

It was in the month of May, 1871, that a colony was formed in St. Lawrence county, New York, with the intention of settling upon railroad lands in the southern portion of Becker county, and the northern part of Otter Tail county. The colony arrived in June, but were dissatisfied with the location selected by their agents, and spent some time in looking around and choosing a location for themselves. Some returned, a portion sought other sections of the West, but ten families settled in the southwest corner of Otter Tail county, in what is now Western township.

At that time there were no houses nearer than Dayton, but they brought with them stout hearts, vigorous bodies, and those habits of industry, economy and perseverance which they had acquired in the East. They immediately set about building houses, living in the meantime in tents and straw shanties. In due time ten neat houses dotted the prairies which had hitherto presented only one unbroken carpet of green verdure.

The lateness of their arrival and the time consumed in building houses for themselves and shelter for their cattle, prevented their breaking much that season, only about fifty acres being broken in the township that year. The next spring they broke about one hundred and fifty acres more, and in the fall the crops resulting from their first year's labor were as follows: Wheat, 940 1-2 bushels; oats, 363 bushels; barley, 54 bushels; corn, 50 bushels; beans, 20 bushels; potatoes, 2,000 bushels. Total crop in 1872, 3, 427 1-2 bushels.

In 1873 four more families joined them and built houses and barns. More land was broken, a greater area was sown to grain, and in the fall over five thousand bushels of grain alone was threshed.

The township, which in 1871, was without a single inhabitant, in 1874 numbered about two hundred people and cast forty-one votes. The township was divided into two school districts in 1874 and a neat, tasty school house 16x24, and a handsome church, 24x36, were erected the same year.

Over three hundred acres of new land was broken in 1874, which made about one thousand broken since its first settlement. It was the intention

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of the early settlers to turn a good share of their energies to dairying and stock raising. They came from a section of New York famous for its butter and cheese, and they intended to win for Otter Tail county butter and cheese as wide a fame.

As early as 1874 it was said that there was not probably in the county another township, which, in proportion to its number of inhabitants, could show as large a number and as fine looking stock. The *Fergus Falls Advocate*, in its issue of June 17, 1874, says: "Already quite an amount of golden butter and delicious cheese is manufactured there, and in less than two years Western will boast a cheese factory and a butter factory second in appointments and facilities to none in this or any other state."

This township is rather sparsely settled, as evidenced by the farms which range in size from eighty to six hundred and forty acres, with the greater percentage containing one hundred and sixty acres. There were two postoffices in this township until the advent of the rural routes, but these have long since lost their identity. The former of these, Western, was located in section 14, and the latter, Roberts, was located in section 2. The town hall for the accommodations of the people of this township is located in section 22, in the northeastern corner.

The nearest approach to a village in this township might be said to be at the corners of sections 14, 15, 22 and 23, where are found two churches, four residences and the town hall. In addition to the churches at this place there is another church in the southern part of section 27.

DEER CREEK TOWNSHIP.

The township now known as Deer Creek (township 134, range 37) was organized by the county commissioners on July 1, 1873. The petition for the organization of this township bears the date of August 13, 1872, and contains the following names: Orin Hoyt, John Moore, T. F. Moore, Ferdinand Regan, T. Buckley, James Lamb, Zach Briner, Alex Watson, A. M. Stillman, Aleck Buckley, Ben Stillman, C. Morrison, James Gorman and J. H. Saunders.

The first election was held at the house of J. M. Brainard on July 26, 1873. Township 134, range 38, was at that time attached to Deer Creek. The name applied to the township was given it on account of the numerous deer which were formerly found within its limits. The pioneer or pioneers who designated this township by this name were evidently so enamored with it that they not only gave it to the township but also to the village and stream in it.

This was the twenty-fifth township settled in this county. It is free from lakes and although well drained by Leaf river and its tributary, Deer creek, this township has a greater acreage of good tillable land than any

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other township in the country. The farms range in size from eighty to five hundred acres, with the greater percentage containing eighty, one hundred twenty and one hundred sixty acres. The farms are well improved, with good buildings and the farmers are ever striving for the betterment of their land and the improvement of their farming methods. This township is bounded on the north by Newton, on the west by Leaf Lake, on the south by Inman and on the east by Compton. Leaf river enters it from Leaf Lake township in the central part of section 19 and flows in a northeasterly direction through the entire length of the township from west to east, entering Compton from the southeastern corner of section 1. It receives one tributary from the north, Bluff creek, which rises in Newton and runs southwesterly through that township and sections 3, 10 and 11 of Deer Creek township. The entire eastern half of the township is drained by the waters of Deer creek. This small stream rises in Inman township, entering Deer creek in section 35 and flowing into Leaf Lake river in section 1 just before the latter river leaves the township. Another small stream rising in Inman township, flows through the southwestern part of Deer Creek township, and empties into Leaf lake. The latter lake just cuts the western border of this township and covers probably twenty acres of land in section 30.

This branch line of the Northern Pacific railroad from Wadena junction to Fergus Falls passes through this township. This road has proven a great help to these farmers in furnishing easy access for their farm products to foreign markets.

The present township officers are as follow: Supervisors, A. H. Knoble, J. F. Johnson and Charles Kasma; clerk, Thomas Carew; treasurer, P. M. Howard; assessor, Frank Gates; justice, Milton Smith; constable, Fred Truppuka.

Deer Creek.

The village of Deer Creek is the only urban center in the township of the same name and is located on the branch line of the Northern Pacific running between Wadena junction and Fergus Falls. It was platted by its owner, Francis McNamara, and recorded in the office of the register of deeds at the county seat on May 23, 1882.

As a result of an election held on December 26, 1899, the town was incorporated. There was considerable opposition to incorporation, as disclosed by the fact that the final vote showed thirty-three for and thirty-one against making the village a distinct political entity. The petition set forth that the village had a population of two hundred and fifty-eight, scattered over a territory of twenty-five hundred and sixty acres.

There were thirty-six signers of the petition and their names are here given that future generations may read the names of the men who started

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Deer Creek on its urban career. The list follows: William Stewart, D. M. Arbuckle, H. J. Erickson, M. O. Hagler, L. G. Melius, J. W. Kramer, Jr., Frank Scott, George Stewart, William LaHarge, Charley Helmbreck, E. W. Keplinger, E. I. Miller, C. B. Coule, W. L. Junkin, W. H. Wahlfell, L. S. Howell, Charley Thrall, H. W. Freeman, John Wigfield, E. Way, O. B. Spiekerman, H. Robbins, E. O. Carew, Alfred LaBarge, Jay Dewey, Nate Davis, Fred Hammond, Joshua Mead, N. L. Snow, A. L. Burger, N. H. Clemmer, J. M. Regan, John Danner, John Johnson and Fred Peck.

The village, which is just ten miles west of Wadena, has a population at present of three hundred and fifty. There are two churches, a Methodist Episcopal and an Evangelical church. The industries and chief business interests of the town consist of a bank, hotel, creamery, flour-mill, brick plant and grain elevator, also a weekly newspaper, *The Mirror*. The present postmaster is I. A. Tuffs. The present village officers are as follow: President, A. D. Baker; council, Hartwig Nelson, E. Wagner and William Holthuson; clerk, B. A. Hompe; treasurer, F. E. Petzold; justice, T. H. Hastings; constable, J. Hammond.

OSCAR TOWNSHIP.

Oscar township (township 134, range 44) was organized by the county commissioners on July 1, 1873, and given the name of Christiana. The petition for the organization of this township was dated June 20, 1873, and contains the names of forty-three signers, the largest list on any of the early petitions. The list of names follow: A. O. Lastern, Telver A. Moe, Martin Trenne, Adolph Wallen, John Danielson, Charles Danielson, August Johnson, Casper Lein, Anders Johnson, A. Anderson, Knut Olson, Ole Knutson, Johan A. Dornstad, Amund Olsen, Gilbert Christianson, Louis Engstrom, Mekkel I. Sen, Michael A. Backen, John Snigedaklen, Ole Hough, Engebret Olsen, Johana Olsen, Edward Olsen, Peter Gilbertson, Peter Leies, S. Olsen, Hans P. Petersen, Jacob W. Chaffen, John Lies, Ole Johan Stras, Lars Parlson, Peter Chrestenson, Ole Christensen, Gilbert Hansen, Carl A. Bakken, Johan J. Jlares, John Jacobson, Ole Peterson, John Engebrights, Amun Mortensen, Morten Johnson and Reed Helgesen.

The first election was held at the house of Ole Sletvold on July 25, 1873, and the following resolution was passed by the commissioners on September 4, 1873, but was rejected by the state auditor: "Resolved, that the name of the township 134, of range 44, shall be Sletvold instead of Christiana." Until 1872 this township was a part of Wilkin county, but by the legislative act of that year and the subsequent election provided by the act, it was attached to Otter Tail county along with the five congressional townships of range 44, and has since remained a part of the county. Oscar was organized at the July session of the county commissioners along with

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Trodhjem. This township is bounded on the north by Trondhjem, on the west by Wilkin county, on the south by Carlisle and on the east by Elizabeth. There are some fifteen lakes in the eastern and southeastern part of the township, but these are all small except Haldorsen on the east, Oscar on the south, and Christopherson in the northeastern corner. The general surface of this township is very broken, ranging from one thousand one hundred to one thousand four hundred feet above sea level. There are no streams flowing through this section and the lakes have no outlets. The western side, however, is less broken and the farms on the latter side are much better. There is no town within the limits of this township, although there was formerly a postoffice called Oscar located in section 15, but with the advent of the rural routes this has ceased to exist. It seems rather strange that there has never been a town platted in this section, as the main line of the Great Northern railroad passes diagonally through the township. Carlisle, in Carlisle township, is just across the line on the south and is a great benefit for the inhabitants of this section; Elizabeth, on the east, is another small village which serves the people of this township. The town hall is located in the center of the township, in section 16. One of the many Indian mounds in the county is found in section 9 of this township. There are four churches in this township, located as follow: Sections 30, 35, 27 and 11. There are three schools in sections 8, 32 and 11. A cemetery is located in section 19 and another in section 27.

The present township officers are as follow: Supervisors, Peter Loken, August Korth and Henry Haldorson; clerk, C. O. Kantrud; treasurer, John E. Sletvold; assessor, C. O. Kantrud; justices, C. F. Braatelein and C. O. Kantrud; constables, O. K. Asberg and Carl A. Sateren.

TRONDHJEM TOWNSHIP.

The commissioners created the township of Trondhjem on July 7, 1873, and so named it at the request of the petitioners, practically all of whom were Norwegians. The first election was held on the 25th of the same month at the house of a man by the name of Petersen. The townships of Norwegian Grove and Oscar had both been organized this same year, the former at the January and the latter at the July session. These three townships, as their names indicate, were settled by Norwegians.

The petition organizing the township was dated March 25, 1872, and contained the following names: H. O'Grina, Sivert O. Hammer, Theodore Tollovoson, Ole M. Tommerness, Nils Olsen Hagen, Hans O. Lunder, Ole L. Loger, Stasius Nordgaard, Lous A. Velo, Anders Larson, Gulbrand Larson, Anders Jorgenson Satrang, Lars E. Bilden, Christoffer E. Warrerud and Iver Wateerud.

Trondhjem township has more than a score of lakes, none of which

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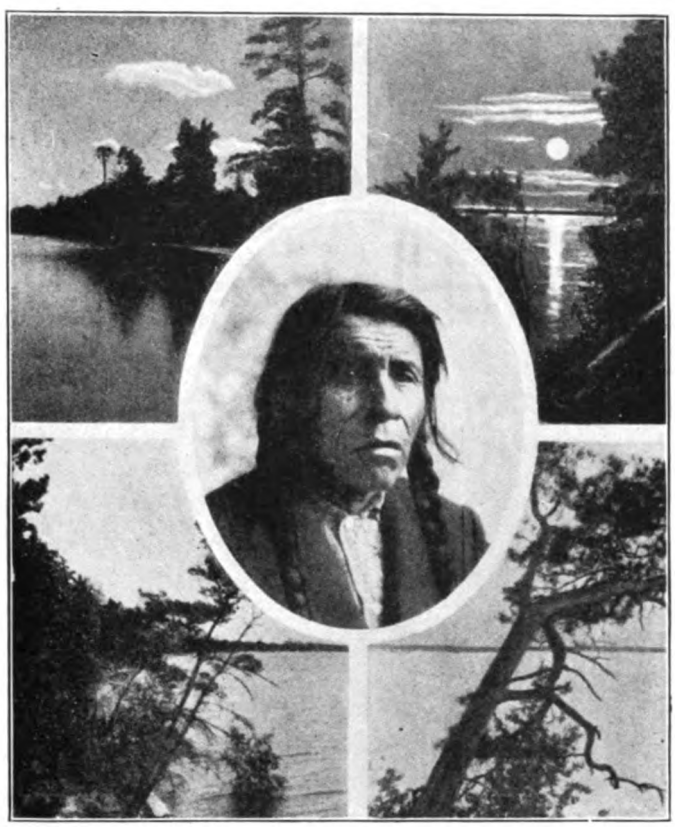

AN ORIGINAL INHABITANT.

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are more than a half section in size. The eastern part of the township drains into the Pelican river, while the western part is drained by the tributaries of Buffalo river. The township is comparatively level, with practically no land which cannot be cultivated. The soil is very fertile and yields bountifully year after year without the necessity of using fertilizers.

Probably the first blacksmith shop in the township was the one located in the southwestern corner of section 17. The first church stood in the southeastern corner of section 9. The only postoffice in the township was at Stod, but it was discontinued in 1905, upon the introduction of rural free delivery from Pelican Rapids. It stood in the eastern part of section 9. Rothsay, in Wilkin county, section 30, adjoins Trondhjem township.

In March, 1916, O. E. Juvrud announced that he would plat some ground in Otter Tail county just east of the Nordlie property. His object is to place the lots on the market as soon as possible and it is thought that it will be but a short time before the corporate limits of Rothsay will be extended to include a strip of land in Otter Tail county. There are already a number of houses on the Otter Tail side.

GORMAN TOWNSHIP.

Gorman township first appears in the commissioners' records September 6, 1871, when it was attached to the newly created Hobart township for civil and criminal jurisdiction in response to a petition dated August 1, 1871, which contained the following signatures: T. H. Whipple, O. Benson, James Hendry, John Gorman, Michael Gorman, Lewis B. Hendry, Martin B. Hendry, James Nash, Frederick Mattfelit, Martin V. Clarny, Ezra Blanchard, Sandy Clary, Monroe Brewster, E. N. Hendry, Thomas Brigham, Edward Leitz, H. Sweeney, James D. Goodhue, John Smith and Walter Gorman.

It was not organized as an independent civil township until September 4, 1873, when it was made a political entity bearing the name of Nashville. The fact that the first election (September 22, 1873), was held at the house of J. O. Gorman, evidently a substantial citizen of the township, may account for the fact that the township was subsequently rechristened in his honor.

This petition organizing the township contained the following signatures: John O. Gorman, James, Nash, Walter Gorman, Barney Griffith, Michael Gorman, Daniel Gorman, Thomas Griffith, Domnicks Dinpey, John Smith, James Moores, John Work, Sam Rasmuson, T. Johnson, Peter Paulson, Thomas Frothowske, H. Tigems, Martin Brand, Hubert Poulussen, P. Y. Johnson, L. Pollom Partyhee, Tdor Mats, F. Tietfens, M. Kraus, Fred Sholes, Theodore Shagens, Frank Segigel, J. Danberg, S. Mardjinski,

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Charley Schulz, J. D. Goodhue, Lorenz Weess, E. Blanchard and Bartholomew Deaby.

When the county commissioners submitted the name of Nashville to the state auditor for his approval, he notified the board that there was another township by the same name in the state and, consequently, a new name would have to be chosen. Accordingly, on January 7, 1874, the commissioners, evidently without consulting the citizens of the township, selected the name of Fox Lake. This name did not meet with the approval of the citizens of the erstwhile Nashville and they presented a petition on March 18, 1874, asking that the township be called Gorman. The request was granted and so it still remains.

Gorman township has six lakes which are cut by its boundary limits, namely: Dead, Silver, Forget-me-not, Devil, Mud and Little Pine. Red river enters the township from Hobart in section 18, and meanders through sections 18, 19, 20, 28, 34 and then runs into Mud lake. Toad river enters the township on the east in section 12 and leaves the township in section 13. A small creek rises in a lake in section 9 and flows in a southerly direction until it empties into Little Pine lake in section 26. Silver lake has an outlet to Red river which meanders through sections 6, 7, 8, 9, 21 and 20.

One of the first saw-mills in the township was located in section 18, on the north side of Red river. Early in the history of the township a brick yard was in operation on the shores of Devil's lake.

The Northern Pacific passed through this township in 1871, and this fact accounts for its early organization. The first station was called Johnson, which, when platted, became known as Luce.

The present township officers are as follow: Supervisor, Alex Ebberson; clerk, Roy Reff; treasurer, H. C. Mattfeld; constable, C. M. Young.

Luce.

Luce, the only village in Gorman township, is located on the Northern Pacific in section 30. It was platted by D. G. Keefe in the spring of 1884 for Johan and Caroline Dinehart, the owners of the townsite. The town plat was recorded May 25, 1884.

In the spring of 1905 the inhabitants of the village decided to ask the commissioners for the privilege of voting upon the question of incorporation. In their petitions presented to the commissioners May 6, 1905, they stated that the thirty-eight hundred and forty acres which they ask to be incorporated contained a total population of one hundred and fifty. The legal voters who signed the petition were as follow: Mike Durkin, C. A. Grinnell, Grant Woodard, Patrick Murphy, George Smithlim, Fred Kretzshmar, Arthur Woodard, John Ebberson, C. Roxstrom, W. H. Klug, W. H. Parks, F. E. Murphy, James Woodard, Joseph Shaske, Fred Meyer, Joseph

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Ebberson, Anton Silbernagel, A. A. Roxstrom, Herman, Hendry, H. N. Woodard, Michael Utz, Mike Smith, John McLaughlen, Joseph Reff, Albert Wiese and Alexander Ebberson.

This petition was presented to and granted by the commissioners on May 6, 1905, and an election ordered for the 13th of the following month. Of the twenty-five votes cast on the question of incorporation all but five were in favor of the proposal.

Luce is at present a village of about one hundred and eighty inhabitants. It has grown from a small hamlet to a very respectable center of trade for this township. The Luce Co-operative Creamery Company and the Monarch Elevator Company are the two largest industries in the village. These are conducted for the benefit of the farmers and bring quite a great deal of trade to the town which otherwise might go to other larger towns in the county. Mrs. M. E. Durkin keeps a general store and Michael Durkin is the present postmaster.

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CHAPTER XII.

TOWNSHIPS OF OTTER TAIL COUNTY, 1874-77.

LEAF MOUNTAIN TOWNSHIP.

Leaf Mountain township (township 131, range 39) was organized on January 7, 1874, under the name of Dovre Fjeld, a name which would indicate that a majority of the petitioners were Norwegians. The first election for township officials was held at the house of Ole Bakke on the 29th of the same month. The present name of the township was given it by the commissioners on March 18, 1874.

The petition for the organization of the township was dated September 6, 1873, and contained the following signatures: Ole Amundson Bakke, Lars Aslesen, August A. Rauben, A. E. Rauben, Emil Bern, Iver Olsen Marftad, Nils Olens Haugen, Martin Iversen, Theodore Iversen Morstad, Iver T. Morstad, John Bjeaketvedt, Robert Halverson, Peter Strobuk, Benj Storbuck and Luis Hansen.

Leaf Mountain is one of the most rugged townships in the county and, with its many lakes, precipitous hills with their corresponding deep valleys and with stretches of prairie land, this township presents a varied topography which is ever a delight to the eye. Scattered over the township are Lakes Spitzers, George, Jessie, Samson, Tom, Johnson, Olson, Line, Christian, Monstad, Edward Moling, St. Mary, Joseph and Belmont, while many others of lesser size may be found here and there. The township is drained toward the south, although there are many landlocked lakes with no outlet.

No railroad has ever broken the quietude of this township, no village has ever reared its head, and the one postoffice, located in the northern part of section 9, has long since disappeared. With no urban population this township has remained essentially a rural district and its people have devoted themselves to agricultural pursuits altogether. With the introduction of improved methods of farming those who engage in this most ancient of occupations have been able to wrest from the soil a comfortable living and the many thrifty farmers to be found here bear ample witness to success which has attended their efforts. Many years ago some one made the startling announcement that gold was to be found in the township, and for a short time the people had visions of wealth floating before their eyes, but with the discovery that the supposed gold was nothing other than pyrites, the bubble burst.

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FRIBERG TOWNSHIP.

The township known as Friberg has the unique honor of having had three names within the first year of its existence. Organized as Florence township on January 6, 1874, it was changed by the county commissioners to Woodland on the 18th of the following March, and finally given its present name on the 1st of the following June. It was organized in response to a petition of twenty-five legal voters, residing in township 134, range 42. The commissioners' records fail to state when and where the first election was held, but the names of the petitioners follow: Ferdinand Peters, W. Schmidt, Frederef Grusentroy, Ferdinand Schmidt, John H. Laplin, ——— ———, Adolph Virause, Wilhelm Danow, Frederick Eichstadt, Charts Mery, Will Holder, Ralph Roxbar, August Leutwig, Conrad Munz, Sofia Peters, M. Vollmers, ——— ———, Wilhelm Ludivigg, J. S. Wensthrom, John Seeba, John Frigberg, Peder Olsen, ——— ———, Christian Kappler, F. B. Price, John Johnson and Martin Johnson. Several of the names in this list were written in German script and very illegible.

It is interesting to note that the southern tier of sections in that part of the township lying south of the Otter Tail river was attached to Aurdal township January 3, 1872. The commissioners had authorized this change in response to a petition of Andrew Johnson, which is given here verbatim: "The undersigned asks that all the sections on the south side of the Otter Tail river, in township 134, range 42, be attached to the township of Aurdal for the reason this part of the first named is not settled yet except by the undersigned and the greatest portion of the township will not probably be much settled in the first ten years. Now, to make it a little convenient for me, I pray you will attach the above described territory to the organized township of Aurdal. Your obedient servant, Andrew Johnson."

The most striking feature of the topography of Friberg township is its large number of lakes, no less than sixty being scattered over its surface. The largest lakes are Heilberg, Tonseth, Long, Big Stone, Sproul, Wolf, Rice and Evans. Red river runs through the township from east to west through sections 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30 and 31, leaving the township in the center of the southern part of the latter section.

One of the first, if not the first, saw-mill in the township was located on Red river in the western part of section 26. Probably the first church was built by the German Lutherans in the extreme southwestern corner of the township. There was also a cemetery at this place. Two other burial grounds which date from the early history of the township are to be found in sections 4 and 34, respectively. The first postoffice was a Friberg, which stood in section 34 near the southern boundary of the township. At different times in the past, postoffices have been maintained at Weggeland, in section

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35, and at Rumsey, in section 16, a general store being located at both places. The present township officers are as follows: Supervisors, H. L. Munger, William Buchholz and Carl Shol; clerk, H. F. Duenow; treasurer, H. R. Wenstrow; assessor, F. W. Drews; justices, H. Wilshusen and E. W. Leeper; constables, E. W. Olds and Fred Buchholz.

COMPTON TOWNSHIP.

The township of Compton (township 134, range 36) was born under inauspicious conditions. As a matter of fact, when the commissioners brought the fledgling into existence on May 10, 1875, there was no one present to christen it and not even one of the commissioners had a name to suggest. Two days later, May 12, the board, or some one interested in the township, gave it the name of Grant and it bore the name of that illustrious general until July 29, 1875, when it was changed by the order of the commissioners to Compton, so named in honor of one of the early pioneers of the county. The election for the first officers was set for the 31st of the same month at the house of a man by the name of Langly.

Compton is the central township on the eastern border of the county. It is bounded on the north by Bluffton, on the west by Deer Creek, on the south by Oak Valley and on the east by Wadena county. This township loses to some extent in picturesqueness, but gains in acreage of tillable land by not having a lake within the confines of its territory. The drainage of this township through the waters of Leaf river is excellent. The natural slope is to the north and the streams all take a due northerly course. Oak and Bluff creeks flow the entire length of the township and furnish excellent natural and artificial drainage to the farmers. These streams are tributaries of Leaf river, which latter stream flows across the northwestern corner, entering from Deer creek and flowing into Bluffton township.

The main line of the Northern Pacific cuts the extreme northeast corner of the township, running wholly in section 1. The Fergus Falls division of this road branches off at Wadena Junction and runs southwest through the township. There are just seven miles of railroad in this township. Compton was settled and organized at an early date. This was due, no doubt, to the building of the railroad through this section in 1871, as only four years elapsed until it was formally organized. There is no town within the limits of Compton, although the people have easy access to the villages of Deer Creek on the west and Wadena on the east.

EASTERN TOWNSHIP

The township of Eastern (township 131, range 36) was organized on July 29, 1875, on the petition of S. L. West and others, representing a majority of the legal voters of the said township. The first election was held at the house of S. L. West on the 16th of the following month.

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This township was attached to Jasper in response to a petition of the legal voters of the township to the commissioners dated January 4, 1870, which contained the following signatures: Henry Asselm, Henrick M. ———, J. Drayer, Charles J. Velden, Benjamin L. Pease, J. S. Hogen, H. H. Carpenter, August Benggvist, Charles Svenson, Andrew Hanson, Sven Carlson, Hans Anderson, John Svanman, John Hakenson, Amor Bacon, Horis Aatkinson, Byron Rathbust, Hamilton Hall, Peter Lindall, W. A. Rathbun, Peter Jensen, G. I. Lundquist, P. A. Lundquist, P. Nelsen, P. N. Lundquist, A. Lundquist, John G. Nelson and John N. Nelson.

The petition for the creation of this county was not presented to the commissioners until five years after this first petition. It was dated at Parkers Prairie, July 19, 1875, and contained the following names: S. L. West, William Melugin, William Boath, J. J. Melugin, Thomas Knott, John Tanglen, Peter Hakinson, John Svanman, C. Nyman, S. Caltras, Joseph Livesnosh, A. Peterson, Phillip S. Ireland and C. Haugen.

This township is the extreme southeastern township of the county and its location sufficiently accounts for the name which was given it by the county commissioners. It has six lakes of good size, Annalaid, Mary, Long, Rich, South and North Maple. The northern part of the township drains into Wing river and the southern portion is crossed by Spruce creek, which leaves the county in section 33. There is much valuable farming land in the township, and with drainage much more land can be brought under successful cultivation.

This is one of the several townships in the county without railroad connections with the outside world and this fact in part accounts for the township having no village. Early in its history saw-mills were established in the northwestern corner of section 13 and in the northern part of section 33. At the present time the sole industry of the people of the township is farming, and the well-improved farms to be found indicate that the pursuit of this time-honored occupation has been successful.

The present township officers are as follow: Supervisors, Hans Arvedson, Frank Fox and O. K. Hanson; clerk, A. C. Rosenquist; assessor, Oliver Williams; justice, Nels Benson; constables, J. E. Nelson and J. A. Peterson.

OAK VALLEY TOWNSHIP

The majority of the legal voters of congressional township 133, range 36, presented a petition to the county commissioners on January 2, 1877, asking for the creation of a civil township embracing the said territory to be known by the name of Oak Valley. This petition was dated November 15, 1876, and was presented to the county commissioners at their January term, at which time they ordered a laying off and naming of Oak Valley township. The names of the petitioners follow: William M. Noyler, John

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W. Noyler, Marion S. Dockstoder, George Broughton, C. A. Smith, Thomas R. Williams, H. C. Williams, James Williams, G. J. Ausbourne, John Biggs, C. E. Thomas, William Thomas, H. P. James, A. C. Packard, S. M. Packard, A. M. J. O'Keefe, N. H. Packard, John Colson, Andrew Carlson, Charles G. Vedean, Andrew Hansen, W. M. Brattin, T. N. Brattin, J. M. Doudna, I. Hocking and David I. Johnson. The first election was held at the home of John Colston, January 22, 1877.

Oak Valley township lies in the eastern tier of sections and is one of the three in this county bordering on Todd county. It is bounded on the north by Compton, on the west by Inman and on the south by Woodside. This township is outside of the lake district, although there are two small bodies of water in the western side. The natural drainage of this township is to the north and two of the tributaries of Leaf river rise in Oak Valley. These are only small creeks, flowing due north on the eastern and western half of the township. The eastern branch bears the name of Oak creek, while the western bears the name of Bluff creek. Farming and dairying is the chief vocation in this township. The farms are well improved and the land is fertile, due partly to the advanced methods of farming. There is no railroad and no towns in this section, although there were two postoffices for a number of years. These bore the names of Lyman and Ramsdell, but it has been impossible for the writer to determine their exact location. They have long since ceased to exist and the people in this section are accommodated with rural routes. Deer Creek is the nearest trading center for the inhabitants of this township. The Oak Valley Co-operative Creamery Company is located in section 8 and has a good patronage from the dairies in this township. There are three churches located in Oak Valley, namely, one in section 1, one in section 8 and another in section 17. There is a cemetery located in section 8 and also one located in 26.

The present township officers are as follow: Supervisors, F. G. Trollier, A. W. Chapman and N. J. Finn; clerk, William Beck; treasurer, G. Menge; assessor, J. H. Walbridge; justices, Homer Paine and E. V. Bush; constable, J. W. Wallingford.

WOODSIDE TOWNSHIP

Woodside township was organized as Wrightstown on January 2, 1877, in response to a petition signed by a majority of the legal voters of the congressional township 132, range 36. The house of J. H. Aldrich was designated for the first election, the same to be held on the 22nd of the same month.

This petition was dated November 6, 1876, and contained the following names: Thomas Ward, Rollin Dutcher, David Adams, John H. Rease, Elmer Rease, John E. Rease, Edson Rease, A. M. Rease, E. Wright, W.

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Wright, Y. Wright, Felix Wentrell, James Pilop, Samuel Blodget, Henry Sharp, John Solman, Wan Harkam, Henry Goodall, Dwitt Vanguilder, J. H. Aldrich, William W. Dutton, John Hawkins, Harry Johnson, E. Wilson, Berten Young, Andru Stebeng, Jason Newell, Origin Bates and David Morehouse. It was evident that the township was not organized in pursuance of this order of the commissioners, since on March 22, 1877, a second petition asking for the organization of the township was presented and passed. This second petition was dated at Parkers Prairie, January 31, 1877. The following is a list of the signers, a majority of the legal voters of the township: P. W. Dutton, G. K. Aldrich, William Haskcom, Dwitt Vangilder, James Haskcom, H. Goodale, Andrew Stebbins, Samuel B. Young, William H. Wilson, O. G. Davison, J. Davison, E. D. Wilson, Origin Bates, T. Goodale, James Parlit, Jason Newell, John Hawkins, Wesley Wright, Tom Ward, John E. More, Henry Johnston, Samuel Blodgett, H. W. Sharp, John E. Rease, David Morehouse, John Mindwuoll, John More and E. Goodale.

The second petition asked that the township be called Woodside and also designated the house of J. H. Aldrich as a suitable place for holding the election. With the election on April 11, 1877, of the proper officials, the township took its place among its sister townships in the county.

Woodside township contains as much farming land as any township in the county, being one of the very few without lakes. It is drained largely by Wing river, which enters the township in section 19 and takes an easterly course through the township, leaving it at the center of section 25. Practically all of the township is level and none of it is so rugged as to prevent its cultivation. The soil is largely black sandy loam and, under the careful tillage of its excellent farmers, produces good crops without artificial fertilization.

The first village in this township answered to the name of Wrightstown and stood in the western side of section 2. A store, postoffice, blacksmith shop, with an additional house or two, made up the village as it appeared thirty-five years ago. Wrightstown has never been platted and today it presents a no more flourishing appearance than it did forty years ago. Not being on a railroad it has not been possible for it to become a trading center, and with the introduction of the rural free delivery a few years ago it practically lost its right to exist. The first saw-mill in the township was on the farm of M. S. Dockstrader, in the eastern part of section 10. P. M. Wright also had a saw-mill on the corner of his farm in section 12. Both of these mills were in operation before 1880 and proved a great benefit to the surrounding farmers. The town hall is in the center of the township in the southeastern corner of section 16.

The present township officers are as follow: Supervisors, J. T. Wag-

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ner, Andrew Johnson and Joe Dohson; clerk, Z. Wright; treasurer, H. S. Aldrich; assessor, R. V. Smith; justices, E. W. Smith and William Edes; constables, G. B. Wynn and William Zimmerman.

NEWTON TOWNSHIP

The first effort to organize a civil township out of congressional township 135, range 37, was made on September 3, 1872, when R. L. Frazee presented a petition to the board of commissioners asking for its organization under the name of Frazee. This petition was dated August 31, 1872, and bore the following names: R. L. Frazee, A. G. Matthews, L. C. Nicoud, G. A. Johnson, D. R. Whitney, L. Jewell, Jona Heunkson, Harry Wilber, Andrew Bruteuson, C. W. Erickson, C. Bruteuson, John Christonson, Ole A. Dahl, M. Barg, Charles P. Jewell, Robert Buchanan, Alfred Pressy, A. Heutchinson and G. Sheets. This petition was granted and the township so named, but, according to the commissioners' records, there were "no boundaries defined and no affixed day for the first town meeting." Nothing appears to have been done towards putting the township organization into effect.

A second effort was made to organize the territory in question into a civil township the following year. The petition was dated June 16, 1873, and the county commissioners at the regular session, September 1, 1873, granted the prayer of the petitioners and ordered that the aforesaid township be organized and called New York Mills. This petition contained the following names: Charles Townley, George L. Cornwell, A. Cornwell, J. H. McMath, J. McDonald, John Setherland, G. Edwart, Gina Ramsdell, C. R. Jewell, J. A. Johnson, Thomas A. Morrison, Frank F. Saunders, Charles Moffat, Charles Lundgren, John Brown, R. McKinnen, John T. Kerr, Holida Henrickson, Frank Oelson, F. N. Hendrickson, Nathan Colby, Robert Griffin, P. Steinberg, S. A. Moffat, I. Grismer, N. E. Oppigaar, George Filzt, E. N. Hoggy, Blair Beveey, D. Jewell, G. W. Jewell, F. Jewell, G. H. Merwib, T. Springstead and John McKinnen. After the granting of the second petition the organizers of this township seem to have neglected to proceed with their organization. It was four years later, in fact, before a third and final attempt was made to organize the territory in question into a civil township.

The actual beginning of Newton township dates from March 22, 1877, at which time it was organized under the name of New York Mills township (township 135, range 37). This last petition was dated March 13, 1877, and bears the following signatures: J. C. Winslow, J. S. Austin, B. H. Winslow, J. Harrigan, Henry Fletcher, Alex Hendrickson, Thomas Rilley, John Welsh, A. Watson, L. Walker, Thomas Ottio, Andrew Poopert, Alex Pekeine, Mats Ronkainen, H. Hawkins and Charley Townley.

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The commissioners designated the store of Towsley & Cornwell as a suitable place for holding the first election, and set April 11 for election day. The township continued to bear the cumbersome appellation of New York Mills until July 26, 1883, when it was rechristened by the name which it now bears. It is interesting to note that when J. S. Austin and sixty-four other petitioners asked on this latter day (July 26, 1883,) for a change in the name of the township they requested that it be called Woodland, but the board discovered that there was another township by the same name in the state and accordingly "selected the name of Newton and directed that the township be so named." The tax duplicate of 1870 gives the taxpayers in Newton township as Henry Van Arman, Esther Gillman and Charles A. Gillman. This was seven years before it was organized as a civil township.

This township was the thirty-fifth organized in Otter Tail county although it had the opportunity of being the twenty-third, but through the lack of interest on the part of the citizens they failed to take advantage of the first act organizing the township. Consequently, twelve other townships took on a civil organization from the time the first petition for the organization of Newton was granted until it actually became an organized township. This township is bounded on the north by Homestead, on the west by Otto, on the south by Deer Creek and on the east by Bluffton.

Newton bears a unique distinction, along with a very few of the other townships on the eastern side, of having not a single lake within its limits. The natural drainage of this township is excellent. The southern and eastern part of the township is drained by a tributary of Leaf river. This small creek rises in section 19 and meanders east and south, leaving the township from section 14. The north and eastern side is drained through Bluff creek, one branch of which rises in section 15, while the main stream enters from Homestead township and takes a southward course, leaving Newton township in the northeastern corner of section 25. These streams afford excellent natural and artificial drainage for the farms in this section. This township is densely populated and the farms range in size from forty to one hundred acres, but the greater percentage contain forty and eighty acres. The farms are all under good cultivation while the farming is carried on with all the advanced methods and improved implements. The main line of the Northern Pacific railroad passes through this township, running almost diagonally from northwest to southeast. This road was completed in 1871 and accounts for the early and rapid settlement of this township. There are two stations on this line in Newton, namely, New York Mills and Dopelius. Boardman was the first village platted in Newton township. This was located on the Northern Pacific railroad in section

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7, but as New York Mills was laid out only one-half mile from the former and eventually enveloped this town, it lost its identity and became a part of New York Mills. Boardman was platted for Alexander Watson, Henry T. Turner and John Harrigan by T. W. Jones. It was recorded in the office of register of deeds February 16, 1880.

New York Mills.

The village of New York Mills, located in section 8, was platted by E. W. Jones for the following proprietors: Henry and Anna Van Aernan, O. P. and Marshia Boardman, S. D. and A. P. Brown (his wife) and George L. and Ada Cornwell. The plat of the village was recorded on October 12, 1883.

A petition for incorporation, dated January 7, 1884, was prepared pursuant to chapter 17 of the General Laws of 1883, and signed by the following legal voters of the proposed incorporation: C. H. Yates, A. Caniff, E. F. Yates, Charles J. Johnson, O. Parry, Fred Reynolds, O. A. Austin, M. Henrikson, August Sitz, Ferdnand Stolz, W. H. Norton, John D. Campbell, B. P. Duffin, A. H. Norton, F. H. Stull, C. E. Kimberlin, A. McNally, A. P. Hahn, C. W. Fiske, F. Dixon, C. W. Reynolds, A. O. Sherman, W. C. Bickel, J. W. Kinney, Levi Stevens, A. W. Taylor, C. H. Gilman, William L. Taylor, H. Maratz, H. W. Nunn, Alexander Watson, A. S. Blowers and Levi Walker. An interesting statement in the petition refers to the reasons why the incorporation is sought. "The social as well as the business interests of said territory will be greatly benefited by a municipal form of government as the said town * * * (is) situated on the Northern Pacific railroad * * * and is a supply station for large numbers of railroad men and lumbermen." The petition states that the village has a population of "Three Hundred Souls." This population was scattered over an area of twelve hundred and eighty acres. This petition was presented to the judge of the district court, S. W. Collins, and on May 27, 1884, he granted the request of the petitioners. The judge appointed John Meggnis, A. P. Helm and O. A. Austin as judges of the first election for village officials.

New York Mills now has a population of five hundred. The town has grown and extended in the last few years and several modern buildings, both business and residential, have made it a village of prosperous appearance. The fire engine house was completed in 1914. This department is entirely volunteer. The equipment consists of a hose cart, gasoline engine, chemical engine, and a thousand feet of hose. The water is pumped from the railroad tank, although there is a storage cistern under the fire house for use in case of emergencies. New York Mills has an excellent band of sixteen pieces. Andrew Lind is the present postmaster and H. A. Hanser railroad

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agent. Ethel Hopp is superintendent of the pump station for the railroad. There are three churches in this village: two Finnish churches and one Congregational. The Modern Woodmen, Modern Brotherhood of America and Royal Neighbor lodges all have chapters here. This village draws from quite an extensive farming area, but this is less on account of Perham and the other towns along the Northern Pacific railroad.

The present business and professional interests of the town follow: Elevators, Farmers Elevator Co., and Andrews & Gage; barbers, Adolph Smith; blacksmiths, D. F. Carmichael, John Borden; bottling works, W. F. Muckalah; creamery, New York Mills Creamery Company; druggists, W. A. Miller; feed mill, T. H. Allars; garage, Atkinson & Stiner, and Mershu & Wapla; general store, M. R. Denison, C. A. Matla, Farmers Co-operative Co.; grocery, Victor Komulainen, Herman Hananen; hardware, Mershu & Wapola, Lind & Piilola; hotel, Merchants Hotel; livery, Fiske Bros., William Peters; lumber, Dower Lumber Co.; meat market, Charles Peckla; pool hall, William Peters; veterinary, H. T. Fiske; picture shows, S. C. Olson.

The present village officers are as follow: President, C. R. Stinar; trustees, A. O. Mattson, W. F. Wood and Andrew Piilola; clerk, John H. Mursu; treasurer, E. R. Rosser; assessor, J. A. Muckala; justices, E. O. Quallom and R. A. Williams; constables, Matt Ruikka and William Stinar.

The village of Dopelius, the only other in Newton township, was recorded August 6, 1901, for Clifford W. and Bertha M. Baumhach (his wife) by Martin Aalberg. A postoffice was originally located in this township in section 25 by the name of Amboy, but this was taken over by Dopelius when the latter was platted.

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CHAPTER XIII.

TOWNSHIPS OF OTTER TAIL COUNTY, 1878-79.

SVERDRUP TOWNSHIP.

Sverdrup township was created by the county commissioners on March 18, 1878, under the name of Norman. The laws of Minnesota provided that the commissioners had to return the names of townships to the state auditor for his approval. The latter official had the authority to approve or reject the name, the rejection being determined by the question as to whether there was another township in the state of the same name. In the case of Norman township the state auditor reported to the county commissioners that another township of the same name already existed, and on July 17, 1878, the present name, Sverdrup, was given the township as set forth in the following resolution: "Resolved by the board of county commissioners of Otter Tail county that the congressional township 133, range 41, organized at the last meeting of board be named Sverdrup as the first name (Norman) was not accepted by the state auditor, another town in the state having the same name. Adopted, July 17, 1878."

The first election was held at the house of Olaf Bjornaas on April 6, 1878. Although Sverdrup was not officially created until 1878, a petition had been presented to the commissioners dated December 7, 1872, asking that township 133, range 41, which was at that time attached to the town of Tordenskjold and which contained at the time more than twenty-five legal voters, be organized into a separate township under the name of Norman. This was signed by the following men: John Olsen Kolstad, Aug. Nordenmalm, Jens Gveld, O. H. Jornaas, Ole Olsen Aune, Ole T. Homperd, Peder M. Henriks, Ole F. Loseth, Knud Knudsen, Bernt O. Sundeye, H. E. Nilson, Halvor Marken, Johan Marken, Ole Aiene, Jens Jensen, Johan Schroeder, John E. Hill, Iver L. Kotitad, Mattias Olsen Minge, Ole Johnsen Butterud, Petter Lorssen, Ole Pedersen, Kalsten Halstensen, Knud Peterson and Andrias Olsen. This petition was rejected on March 18, 1873.

The second petition which resulted in getting the township organized, was dated February 5, 1878, and contained the names of the following qualified voters: A. W. Peterson, Hans Juelson, Oscar Hanson, Johan E. Hill, Charley Johnson Hill, Johna O. Nilsby, Ole F. Hamperd, Ole J. Butterud, Ole T. Bjornaas, Ole F. Loseth, Ole O. Aune, Ole Nygaard, Jens E. Wold, John O. Stomperd, Peder M. Hendricks, James Randak, Even Johnson, John Sanao, T. C. Logge, Lars Hansen, Peder Sande, M. O. Sjolberg, Jor-

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gen Hanson, Halste Halstensen, Halvor Marken, Knud Pederson, Johan Marken, John Olsen Kolstad, Knud Knudsen Onstad, Lars Johnson Medja, Edward J. Wold, John J. Wold, Ole Gjordal and Andreas O. Seem.

The tax duplicate of 1878 gives the following taxpayers for Sverdrup township for that year: Ole O. Aune, Ole Bjornaas, Ole J. Butlevud, Ole Erekson, Peder M. Hendrikson, Jorgen Hanson, Halstensen Halshens, Lars Hanson, Carl Hill, John E. Hill, Jens Jenson, Even Johnsen, Habs Juelson, Renerth Johnsen, Johan O. Kolstad, Knud Knudson, Petter Larsen, John Marken, Lars J. Medjan, Halder E. Nilson, Ole O. Nygaar, Johan O. Nilsbye, A. W. Petterson, Ole Pederson, Knud Pederson, Bernth Sunelbye, M. O. Sjvlberf, T. C. Sagge, Petter P. Sande, Ole J. Stompra, Andreas Skramstad, Ole Sjordaal, Jens E. Wold, Ole Loseth, J. H. Low, Peder J. Nilsen and John Schroeder.

Sverdrup township has more than its share of lakes and there is not a section which does not contain a lake or a part of one. The largest lakes in the township are North Turtle, South Turtle, Anna, Dagmar, Norway, Bass, Onstad, John, Crooked, Horseshoe and Lost. The whole township drains into Red river which runs through Maine township about a mile north of Sverdrup. There is very little level land in the township although it is not so rugged that it cannot be brought under cultivation.

The preponderance of the population has always been Norwegian, the people from that country being its first settlers in large part. The first village was Southvick, the forerunner of the present village of Underwood. The postoffice established at this place was known as Turtle Lake. After the building of the Northern Pacific through the southern part of the township in the early part of the eighties, Southvick was platted as Underwood. The only other place in the township which has aspired to urban honors was Maplewood, which appeared on the maps of the county in 1882 as a station on the railroad, but soon disappeared.

The present township officers are as follow: Supervisors, Ole A. Berg, John Sem and Henry S. Bye; clerk, A. F. Lund; treasurer, Gust Onstad; assessor, Otto Nilsby; justices, Ole Aune, Jr., and Elof Hagen; constables, Theo. Westerhaug and Anton Haukebo.

Underwood.

The village of Underwood, located on the branch line of the Northern Pacific in the southern part of section 32, was laid out by Robert Miller for Timothy and Lydia H. Kellogg in the fall of 1881. The village was incorporated as a result of a petition signed September 30, 1912, by the following legal voters residing in the proposed incorporation: F. E. Solomonson, C. E. Pederson, Carl H. Christiansen, O. C. Olson, O. J. Lein, George Kugler, H. Ledding, Odin Loseth, Conrad Skalman, P. K. Onstad, Gustav Schmidt,

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Christ Jensen, H. Hawkins, E. S. Evenson, Nils Wilson, O. C. Pries, Jens Jensen, Theo. Sjordal, H. C. Secoy, G. K. Haukebo, S. L. Brydahl, John J. Anker, H. N. Pederson, Siverin Lokken, H. L. Anker, H. Hendricksen and Henry Dahl.

The petition stated that the village contained a total population of two hundred and four and that the territory asking for incorporation comprised three hundred and twenty acres. The petition was presented to the commissioners on October 8, 1912, and at once granted. The board set Tuesday, November 12, 1912, as the date for an election to determine whether the village should be incorporated. The result of the election showed twenty-eight votes in favor of and ten against incorporation.

This town has grown to such proportions in the last few years that it is a rival of many of the towns which were laid out at an earlier date. The population at present numbers nine hundred. There is a Norwegian Lutheran and Unitarian church in this town. There is a bank, hotel, feed mill, creamery and two elevators. E. T. Evenson is the present postmaster.

The present village officers are as follow: President, Nils Wilson; trustees, G. Gilbertson, Gustav Schmidt and F. E. Solomonson; clerk, E. S. Evenson; treasurer, C. J. Moen; assessor, Hans O. Olson; justices, W. A. Lee and C. H. Christensen; constables, Carl Mortenson and Oliver Bergem.

INMAN TOWNSHIP.

Inman township made its appearance among the townships of Otter Tail county on March 18, 1878. Undoubtedly the proposed railroad from the Northern Pacific which was to run through this congressional township (township 133, range 37) via Fergus Falls to Pelican Rapids was responsible for the creation of Inman township at this particular time. The first election was held on April 8, 1878, at the house of Thomas Inman, in whose honor the township was named. It is interesting to note that not all of the citizens of the proposed township wanted it called Inman. William Ogden and others presented a petition on the day that the township was organized asking that it be called Custer, but the followers of Inman either had a greater number of signers to their petitions, or else more influence, since they induced the commissioners to call it Inman. The names of the petitioners who desired the name Inman were as follow: William Ogden, A. C. Gould, H. Stinson, C. H. Sturns, Charley Treubly, Albert Hough, William Hough, Charles Tidthey, August Doane, Benjamin Stuart, Thomas Gask, H. T. Gash, Jacob Haish, J. E. Inman, A. B. Stewart, Testel H. Huesh and Frank Fellows.

Inman township is now without a lake of any size, although forty years ago there was a lake in the south central part of the township more than two miles long and in many places half a mile wide. Fortunately the

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topography of the township is such that it has been easy to drain this lake and now it has practically disappeared. There was also formerly a lake in the northwestern part of the township, but it too has nearly disappeared. The northern part of Inman drains into Leaf river on the east and Red river on the west while the old lake bed in the southern part of the township is drained by a stream which eventually finds its way to Leak lake and thence to Red river.

The first saw-mill in the township was located in the center of section 15 and for many years did a flourishing business. The first postoffice, called Inman, stood in the extreme northeastern corner of section 22. After the branch line of the Northern Pacific was built through the northwestern corner of the township in 1882, a station was established in the western part of section 5 and given the name of Parkton. This has never been platted and is only a flag stop.

The present township officers are as follow: Supervisors, G. W. Moats, Nels O. Buset and Andrew Isakson; clerk, W. J. Henderson; treasurer, E. Parks; assessor, Nels N. Holt; justices, Henry Dilly and E. E. Inman; constables, Erick Edholm and Leseure Moats.

HENNING TOWNSHIP.

The present township of Henning (township 133, range 38) began its formal career under the name of East Battle Lake on July 17, 1878. The first election was held at the house of M. J. Mattson on the fifth day of the following month. On August 1, 1884, in response to a petition of C. W. Brandberg and others of East Battle Lake township, the commissioners changed the name to that of Henning.

On the 28th day of May, 1878, twenty-two of the legal voters of this township presented a petition to the county commissioners asking for the organization of East Battle Lake township. The list is as follows: M. P. Mattson, T. Christensen, Ole Christensen, C. Tyggeson, Peder C. Janson, Samuel Anderson, Barow Swanberg, B. L. Riis, Charles Johnson, Christen Christenson, Julius Paulson, Olaf F. Johnson, Christian Kangballe, Hans Markuson, Olaf P. Penson, Andrew Olson, Halvor M. Sorknes and August Pitters.

This was the thirty-eighth township organized in the county and began its official career on the same day as Bluffton. Henning is bounded on the north by Leaf Lake, on the west by Girard, on the south by Folden, and on the east by Inman. It can truly be said that the township has no lakes entirely within its limits. The southwestern part of the township is drained into East Battle lake. The northern and eastern parts drain into a small tributary of Leaf river which rises in Elmo township, flows through Inman

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township and enters Henning in the northeast corner of section 24. It then meanders across the northeastern part and leaves the township in the northwestern corner of section 2. There was formerly a lake of considerable size in the southern part of section 4 which has practically disappeared in the last thirty years. The Northern Pacific and Minneapolis, St. Paul & Sault Ste. Marie railroads pass through this township. The former enters the township in the northeastern part of section 12 and runs in a southwesterly course, leaving the same in the southeastern corner of section 32. This road was completed in 1882 and intersects the Soo line at the village of Henning. The latter road was not completed until 1902. There is only one town in this township which has ever been platted.

The present (1916) township officers are as follow: Supervisors, Oliver Fossee, S. T. Nyhus and Charles Peppling; clerk, Elof ~~Mollerstrom~~; treasurer, E. Klimp; assessor, Lars Olson; justice, H. H. Wheeler.

Henning.

The village of Henning is located in the township of the same name at the junction of the Soo and Northern Pacific railroads. It was platted by Charles J. Wright for Hiram L. and Sarah E. Holden, Jacob and Nancy Sallade and George W. Lentz. The question of incorporating the village was broached in the spring of 1887, and within a short time a petition was prepared and signed by a sufficient number of the legal voters residing within the proposed incorporation asking the district court for the privilege of voting on the question. The petition stated that the proposed incorporation included twenty-five hundred and sixty acres and contained a total population of two hundred and fourteen. It is interesting to note that the petitioners submitted to the judge a complete list of the one hundred and ninety-nine persons whose names appear on the state's census of the village taken June 15, 1885. It is not evident why this was necessary and especially in view of the fact that the petition submitted two years after this census showed a population of two hundred and fourteen. The petition was signed by P. H. O'Hara, H. B. Barney, A. Wiley, W. S. Reynolds, Carl C. Langballe, A. S. Paulsen, A. M. Bader, A. Weaver, G. A. Saetre, George A. Paulson, Hans M. Markuson, Hans C. Pedersen, Henry Johnson, George W. Dixson, B. L. Reis, H. H. Aurberg, Christian Christensen, J. J. Hille, August Parduhu, Jacob Nelson, O. T. Westerberg, B. Andrianne, M. E. Hall, J. Poulson, C. M. Nelson, Olaf P. Peterson, John Anderson, C. Peterson, R. R. Tichenor, J. W. Whitaker, E. E. Saetre, James Leonard, Martin Erikson, J. Gronbeck, D. McMillan, T. Walker and Christian Sorenson.

This petition was completed and later granted on August 8, 1887. The first election for village officials was held on September 17, 1887, at the

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store of J. Gronbeck and thirty-eight votes were cast—twenty-six for and twelve against incorporation.

Henning lies at the intersection of the Soo railroad and the Fergus Falls branch of the Northern Pacific. It is a village of approximately six hundred and twenty-five persons. It is thirty-one miles east of Fergus Falls. The churches of this village consist of a Baptist, Swedish and Norwegian Lutheran church, also a Methodist Episcopal. There are two banks, two hotels, two grain elevators, a flour-mill, a creamery and a weekly newspaper, *The Advocate*. All of the different public and private enterprises are boosters for the town and its growth has been steady and it is a safe prediction that it will continue. Fred Von Ohlen is the present postmaster.

The present village officers are as follow: President, H. J. Cordes; trustees, C. M. Anderson, C. G. Hipple and C. G. Hanson; clerk, L. A. Johnson; treasurer, A. O. Saetre; assessor, C. Christenson; justices, Iver Bondy and C. W. Barker; constables, H. S. Berg and J. C. Halvorson.

BLUFFTON TOWNSHIP.

The congressional township of 135, range 36, was organized as the civil township of Bluffton on July 17, 1878. The commissioners ordered the first election to be held at the house of William S. Hurst on August 5, 1878. The petition presented to the commissioners was signed by seventeen of the qualified electors of the township, as follow: W. A. Walker, Patrick Burns, W. S. Hurst, Dennis McCortez, G. W. Rice, C. M. Maltby, G. W. Handy, Joshua Winter, Peter Nelson, John Q. Ostrander, James E. Ostrander, Royal P. Ostrander, S. McGuire, Daniel Philips, Ames Philips, John Anderson and John Shoborg.

Bluffton township lies on the extreme eastern side of Otter Tail county. It is bounded on the north by Blowers township; on the west by Newton; on the south by Compton; and on the east by Wadena county. This is one of the few townships in this county that does not contain a lake within its limits. This township has good drainage because of many streams which flow through it and these streams afford ample means for natural and artificial drainage.

The general slope of land is to the south and east. Leaf river enters this township on the southern side, a mile south of Bluffton, and meanders northeast until it reaches a point one mile east of Bluffton, where it flows due east entering Wadena county from section twenty-five of this township. Its tributaries are Mill creek, which lies almost wholly within this township and affords excellent drainage for the eastern half of the township, and North Bluffton creek which flows across the northwestern corner of the township and then enters Newton township, flowing in a southern direction until it again enters Bluffton township in the northwest corner of section

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thirty. It then flows into a small body of water on the western side of the town of Bluffton which is then emptied into Leaf river. The Northern Pacific runs through the southern part of the township, entering at Wadena Junction and leaving it at the southwest corner of section thirty. There are just five miles of track of this railroad in Bluffton township. The building of this railroad in 1871 through this section of the county was responsible for the settling and organizing of this township at an early date.

Bluffton.

The village of Bluffton is located in section 33 of Bluffton township and is the only village in the township. The Northern Pacific, which runs across the southern part of the township, is responsible for the location of the village. It was platted by A. M. Darling for the proprietor, C. M. Maltby, in the spring of 1880 and recorded on the 27th of March of that year.

In the winter of 1902-03 the village waged a successful campaign for incorporation. On December 26, 1902, they took a census of the village and found that there were two hundred and thirty-three inhabitants in the territory seeking to be incorporated. On January 10, 1903, a petition was presented to the commissioners asking for a special election to ascertain the sentiment of the voters regarding incorporation. The petition was signed Iver Johnson, Joseph Yunch, Matthias B. Klein, Peter Klein, C. M. Klein, Bernard Kluenenberg, M. P. Hammer, William S. Gray, Peter Lorge, J. M. Pallauch, John Ostlund, John C. Jones, Reinhold Langer, Ernest Pilger, John Goeller, John Endre, Hubert Welsch, E. B. Beighley, Charles Kupper, Rubert Arbuckle, Joseph Barth, James M. Howes, William Pilger, Nicholas Lick, Mary Beighley (widow), Jess Hoppes, Flora Boldon (widow), Bernard Hentger, J. E. Erickson, Leonard Geiser, Peter Paggen, John Triesch, J. W. Kramer and A. T. Kramer.

The board granted the petition and set February 24, 1903, for the election. A total of forty-six votes were cast, of which thirty-two were for and fourteen against the proposed incorporation.

Bluffton lies four miles northwest of Wadena and, although lying in such close proximity to a town which is much larger, this has not succeeded in keeping down the growth of this town. The population at present is about five hundred. There is one hotel, a bank, creamery and grain elevator. The Catholics have the only church in the town. R. M. Stuntebeck is the present postmaster.

The present village officers are as follow: President, Jos. Ahles; trustees, John Regan, M. B. Klein and Jos. Geiser; clerk, J. A. Otte; treasurer, Anton Raykowski; justice, G. A. Howes; constable, Kaufmann.

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LIDA TOWNSHIP.

Otter Tail county may well boast of its many beautiful lakes and more than fifteen hundred have been ennumerated with the limits of the county. There is one township in the county where the water area actually exceeds the land area and Lida township (township 136, range 42), while it may not claim distinction on any other score, yet has undisputed claim to the honor of having the least land area of any township in the county. It was organized on March 19, 1879, upon the presentation of a petition signed by Stephen A. Card and others, totaling a majority of the legal voters of the territory in question. The petitioners asked that the new township be called Lake Lida, but the commissioners shortened it to Lida. The first election was held at the house of C. A. Rogers on the fifth of the following month.

The petition asking for the organization of the township carried the following signers: Stephen A. Card, George Skeplorn, J. S. Pease, F. W. Vickry, J. W. Rogers, Melvin Stone, W. Wright, H. Baker, F. H. Harris, H. J. Wilson, Louis De Pocher, Henry Hostermann, C. A. Rogers, H. Cummings, A. Cummings and A. E. Rathbun.

Two lakes, Lida and Lizzie, cover more than half of the township, while there are in addition nearly twenty lakes of smaller size scattered over the township. The whole township lies in the Pelican river basin; in fact, the Pelican river flows through Lake Lizzie. The surface of the township is very rugged, especially on the eastern side.

The first store in the township was on the shores of Lake Lida in the northwestern corner of section 14 and the postoffice which was kept in this store was known by Uncle Sam as Lida. Another postoffice, called Bessie, was kept at the house of Benson L. Brown in section 34. It was called Bessie in honor of his wife. Both Lida and Bessie were discontinued in 1905 when the rural service out of Pelican Rapids was extended to cover Lida township. Early in the history of the township a steam saw-mill was put into operation in the extreme southwestern corner of section 11. Another saw-mill was on the farm of Herman Hostermann on the western side of section 7. At the present time there is neither a store, mill nor blacksmith shop within the limits of the township.

This township has one of the most unique bridges or causeways in the county, if not in the state. It is built across the narrows of Lake Lida, in sections 32 and 33, and is at least half a mile in length. The causeway is flanked on either side with large granite boulders and filled up with dirt and sand to a height of three or four feet above the level of the lake on either side. The width is only sufficient for one rig to pass at a time, although it is widened at one place in the middle so that two rigs might

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pass each other in case they happened to meet midway. Toward the east end of this causeway is a steel bridge, which has been erected within the past few years. Probably the most picturesque road in the county is the one leading round Lake Lida. One mile of this road on the west side, from Kinney's Camp to the causeway, is cut out of the high bluff which rises precipitously from the shores of the lake. As soon as the lake freezes over, the people drive across it and this is usually done for at least three months every year.

AMOR TOWNSHIP.

The first effort to establish a township by the name of Amor was made in January, 1879, at which time the county commissioners rejected a petition to organize township 135, range 40 (now Dead Lake township) and township 136, range 40 (now Edna township) as Amor township. No reason is assigned for the refusal to grant the request of the petitioners although it is reasonable to suppose that the commissioners deemed the population too scanty to warrant the creation of the township.

However, the name Amor, which in Norwegian means Cupid, seemed to have had a fascination for some amorously inclined Norwegian. On March 19, 1879, a petition was presented to the commissioners, signed by T. Syverson and others, being a majority of the legal voters in congressional township 134, range 40, "praying that the same be organized as a new town to be called 'Amor.'" It is to be noted that this was a different congressional township from the one for which a petition was presented at the January session. The petition was granted and the first election ordered held at the house of S. Larson on Saturday, April 5, 1879, "at nine o'clock in the forenoon and continue till five o'clock in the afternoon of the same day for the purpose of electing town officers and transacting such other business as may be transacted at any regular town meeting."

The twenty-three signers of the petition, asking for the establishment of Amor township were all Norwegian, but some of their names are impossible to decipher on the petition. Those which can be read are as follow: T. Syverson, Frank Munk, August Johnson, J. H. Eller, E. Johnson, John Hult, H. I. Gurgels, Andrew Johnson, Andrew Mortenson, James McNulty, Andrew Breitenbaugh, F. C. Young, O. Lundberg, Iver Erikson, John Shellman, John Young, S. Larson, A. N. Martinson, T. K. Johnson, B. Austin, J. O. Ehler and John Munk.

Amor is the center township of Otter Tail county, there being just four tiers of townships on the east and four on the west, by three tiers on the north and three on the south. It is bounded on the north by Dead Lake, on the west by Maine, on the south by Everts, on the south and east by Otter Tail Lake and on the east by Otter Tail township. Approximately

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one-half of Otter Tail lake lies in this township and ten sections are covered by the waters of this lake. Walker lake is the next in size in this township. It lies to the north of Otter Tail lake, has an outlet into the latter body of water. Twin lake and Mud lake are the only other lakes of any size in this township. The farming land in this township is very fertile and productive and although having a very large acreage of water there is little swamp land and the farms are very tillable. There was originally a postoffice at Amor but this is now accommodated by a rural route and little remains to mark the town except a few dwellings, church and country store. Vida, in section 4, was once a postoffice, but has long since been abandoned.

Camp Nidaros is located in Amor township, section 12, on the shores of Otter Tail lake. It was platted by H. A. Aalberg for F. E. Kaiser and recorded November 4, 1900, in the office of the register of deeds.

The present township officers are as follow: Supervisors, F. H. Langvick, J. E. Ritchey and C. O. Hult; clerk, John Lien; treasurer, J. A. Wallin; assessor, F. E. Kaiser; justices, C. Bjorgaard and S. T. Putnam; constables, C. W. Ekman and Osea Sundberg.

DORA TOWNSHIP.

Dora township began its official career on July 22, 1879, at which time the commissioners granted the request of George W. Smith and others for the creation of a township (township 136, range 41) bearing this name. The signers of the petition asking for the establishment of the township were as follow: William Englemann, George W. Smith, P. M. Smith, E. L. Thomas, Herman Klug, Carl Klug, Julius Raschke, Gottlieb ———, H. G. Doeltz, Jacob Bouer, Anton Honor, Gottlieb ———, Carl Gustav Wagner, Y. S. Powers, Ernest Lubbermann and William Schimelpfinnig. The election of the first officers on the ninth of the following August at the house of David Parks formally marked the beginning of the independent career of the township.

Dora is one of the north central townships of Otter Tail county; it is bounded on the north by Candor, on the west by Lida, on the south by Star Lake and on the east by Edna. This township, as is the case with all the townships of the central and western part, truly lies in the lake district of the county. There are twenty-five lakes lying entirely within the limits of this township and eight additional lakes which extend into it. Spirit, Loon, Big McDonald, Silent Lakes and Lake Loon are the five largest lakes in the township. Star Lake also extends into sections 34, 35 and 36 from Star Lake township. There are only two sections, 30 on the west and 12 on the east, which either do not contain a lake or a part of one. Those lakes on the southern and eastern side have an outlet into Star lake and are part of the Red river system. Those on the north are drained through Loon

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lake and eventually into the Red river, while on the west it is drained through Lakes Lida and Lizzie to the Pelican river. Thus this township is drained in three directions and into two different streams, although they all form part of the Red river drainage system. This township is rather sparsely settled and the farms are large. There has never been a town platted within the limits of this township. For a number of years there were two postoffices located in this township for the accommodation of the settlers so remote from any trading center, but with the advent of the rural routes these have long since been abandoned. These were Dora and Spirit Lake.

The present township officers are as follow: Supervisors, William Diller, William Albright and Fred Wendt; clerk, Charles Stender; treasurer, Bud Hoffman; assessor, Charles Hoffman; justice, Fred Wendt; constable, William Albright.

EVERTS TOWNSHIP.

The township of Everts (township 133, range 40) was created by the county commissioners on July 22, 1879, in response to a petition signed by George Gould and others. George Gould was evidently one of the leading citizens of the newly organized township, since the commissioners designated his house as the first voting place. With the selection of the township officers on the ninth of the following August, Everts began its official career as a political entity.

The petition brought before the commissioners was signed by nineteen of the legal voters of the township, to wit: George Gould, Andrew Glende, Erick Glende, Anthon Glende, Thorer Glende, August Nordenmalm, Ole A. Dahl, C. G. Gould, Andrew H. Rostad, Nels O. Inande, Ole Tweten, Alick Tweten, P. P. Jackson, Evan A. Glende, Joseph Norman, E. A. Everts, Rezin Everts, W. W. Gould and William Oaks.

It is interesting to note that the petitioners gave the commissioners a choice of three names for the township, but that the board refused to consider any of them. The three names suggested were Silver Lake, Clinton and Sweet Home, but it is evident that none of them appealed to the fancy of the board, since they called it Everts on the same day they granted the petition.

Everts township comes very near being surrounded by water. No less than eleven lakes lie on or just within its boundary limits, to-wit: Otter Tail, Blanche, Annie Battle, Mollie Stark, Battle, Silver, Elbow, South Turtle, North Turtle, Lost and Middle. This leaves six sections wholly untouched by lakes and a few others with only a very small amount of water acreage.

The only villages in the township are Inglewood and Battle Lake, the

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latter being a thriving trading center before the Northern Pacific branch was built through it in the fore part of the eighties.

The present township officers are as follow: Supervisors, J. E. Wold, A. G. Myhre and Frank Anderson; clerk, Lawrence Rowe; treasurer, And Dahl; assessor, And Tweten; justices, O. S. Mickelson and A. Tweten; constables, J. H. Rostad and M. J. Askerooth.

Battle Lake.

The village of Battle Lake was platted October 31, 1881, for Torger O. and Bertie O. Holdt (his wife). It is located in sections 3 and 4, township 132, range 40, on the western end of West Battle Lake in Everts and Clitherall townships. On March 25, 1891, a number of citizens of the village petitioned the county commissioners for the privilege of incorporation. The following legal voters signed the petition: Martin Anderson, E. A. Everts, O. C. Olson, Orris Albertson, Fred Evander, D. R. Hill, J. A. Colehour, C. Crogan, L. P. Gellerman, Peter Olson, C. Deich, Ole Bondy, J. O. Tweten, E. F. Wimer, Lars Sorenson, W. H. Bullock, T. Olson, B. B. Warfield, Comfort Barns, Bronson Strain, L. J. Crooks, W. W. Crooks, Hans O. Larson, C. H. Pierce, Albert C. Jorgenson, E. K. Evenson, G. Evander, A. C. Hatch, A. S. Wimer, George Willie, Edward Hart, G. H. Wimer, E. W. Hinkston, Sywert Johnson, C. Retallick, H. G. Kerr, M. S. Jones.

The petition represented that the territory asking to be incorporated included about four hundred and twenty acres, and that a census taken on March 20, 1891, showed that there were two hundred and thirty-one inhabitants in this territory. The commissioners granted the petition and ordered an election held on Tuesday, April 28, 1891, at the store of Orris Albertson. On the appointed day fifty votes were cast: thirty-six for incorporation, thirteen against, and one vote which was marked both yes and no.

The present village officers are as follow: President, A. C. Hatch; trustees, John Becker, Gust Ramberg and Frank Osterlund; clerk, E. J. Rudh; treasurer, G. H. Hopkins; assessor, Frank Willie; justices, Carl J. Teller and Gust Ramberg; constables, Thomas Noble and Cash Sherman.

Inglewood was platted July 1, 1904, by Martin Aalberg for the following proprietors: John and Nora A. Knight, C. J. and Louise Montgomery, Jacob H. and Minnie Montgomery, W. H. and Nellie Harris, L. L. and Lizzie A. Benedict, W. L. and Bertha M. Northfoss, Theodore and Anna E. Northfoss, John and Rose Dower, Edwin and Pearl Wiswell, John W. and Bell F. Woods and George and Harriet L. Kobler. It is located in section 1 on the shores of Otter Tail lake.

Sand Beach Park was platted by Martin Aalberg for C. D. and Almeda A. Baker and recorded in the office of the register of deeds May 27, 1913. It is located in Everts township, section 5, township 133, range 40.

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LEAF LAKE TOWNSHIP.

The first effort of the citizens of Leaf Lake township (township 134, range 38) to organize a civil township was made March 19, 1879. At that date C. D. C. Williams and others presented a petition before the county commissioners asking for the organization of a civil township with the above described limits. It was refused by the board because the signatures all appeared in the same handwriting. Williams appeared before the board on July 22, 1879, with a petition properly signed, and, upon the representation that there were at least twenty-five legal voters in the township, the commissioners granted the petition. The first election was at the house of C. D. C. Williams on the ninth of the following month.

The petition asking for the organization of the township carried the following names: C. D. C. Williams, Joseph Dickerson, William Hostetler, Daniel Hochstetler, Edward F. Curry, John W. Dickerson, John McCool, W. C. Curry, Thomas Elliott, William Elliott, Frank Elliott, Knud Anderson, Christian Haugen, Edward C. Oppegaard, Erick O. Haukedahl, Nils Rino, Martin Erickson, Joseph Hart, P. Brown and Frederic Clayton.

This township has two large lakes, East and West Leaf lakes, which extend nearly across the township from east to west about the center of the township. Other lakes to be found are Grass, Gaard and Portage, all three lying in the central western part of the township. Two streams, Leaf river and Willow creek, flow into East Leaf lake from the north and south respectively. The greater portion of the township is a level prairie with enough slope to admit of drainage and accordingly most of the land is rendered tillable.

The history of this township, if more or less obscure records are to be relied upon, antedates that of any other part of the county. An article in the *Fergus Falls Journal*, June 21, 1878, tells of the ruins on the shores of Leaf Lake of a British trading post established about one hundred years ago. This trading post was maintained by the British Northwest Trading Company in what is now known as Otter Tail county, and dates back as far as 1812. The writer of the article says: "In our recent trip to Deer Creek there was pointed out to us in the thick woods along the north shore of Leaf Lake some overgrown mounds, partially covering tolerably well preserved chimney stacks, which marked the site of this former trading post. On the spot where once stood houses now stand trees eight to ten inches in diameter.

"Our first definite information in regard to this post was obtained from Donald McDonald of Otter Tail City. He says that about 1812 Colonel Dixon of the British Army had charge of this trading post at Leaf Lake. The portage from Otter Tail lake to Leaf lake is only about half a mile,

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and was one of the favorite portages from the waters of the Red river to those of the Mississippi."

It is known that the Otter Tail and Crow Wing trail was first opened for the passage of Red River carts some eighty years ago. This led east from Otter Tail City past the site of the old post on the north side of Leaf lake, on through the present townships of Deer Creek, Compton and Wadena to Crow Wing. There are reasons for the conjecture that a trail for carts may have extended to the Leaf lake post from Selcurk's in Dixon's time.

McDonald also speaks in this article of a division line which was established in the early day, known by Indians then living, which led up to Crow Wing and Leaf river, thence by the Leaf lakes to Otter Tail.

These were the days when the Sioux and Chippewas disputed the occupancy of the region. Beautiful Battle lake took its name from a desperate contest in which twenty-six Ojibways, all that were engaged, were cut down by a much larger party of Sioux.

McDonald, the authority quoted above, says that he subsequently knew Colonel Dixon at Montreal. He describes him as a large man of full face, tall and commanding. It is also recorded of him that although engaged in inciting the northwestern Indians against the United States in the War of 1812, he was humane to prisoners and rescued many from the Indians. In connection with the article referred to, Rev. E. D. Neill, who was regarded as the best historical authority on early events in Minnesota, has the following to say of Col. Robert Dixon and the Leaf lake trading post:

"At the commencement of the last century the leading spirit of the fur traders of the region west of Lake Superior was an Englishman named Robert Dixon. He came to this region about 1790, and had supervision of the trading posts at Cass, or Red Cedar, and Leach lakes. In December, 1805, Lieutenant Pike of the United States army, while in camp at the rapids below Swan River, was visited by Dixon, who assured him that no liquor was sold to the Indians at any of the trading posts under his direction and Pike in his report writes, "he seemed to be a gentleman of general knowledge and in possession of much geographical information of the western county, of open frank manners.

"In 1811 Dixon was the British agent and superintendent of the western Indians, and was active in his opposition to the United States in the War of 1812. In February, 1814, he was at Green Bay influencing the Indians to support the British flag, and in the summer of that year he was at Fort McKay, the British post at Prairie du Chien."

On February 16, 1818, the United States Indian agent at Prairie du Chien wrote to the governor of Illinois:

"A courier who arrived a few days since confirmed the belief that Dixon

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is endeavoring to secure to the British government the affection of the Sioux. Dixon, as I have before observed, is situated near the head of the St. Peters, to which place he transports his goods from Selcurk's Red river establishment in carts made for the purpose. The trip is performed in five days, sometimes less. He is directed to build a fort in the highest land between Lac du Travers and Red river (perhaps Otter Tail lake), which he supposes will be the established line between the two countries. This fort will be defended by twenty men with two small pieces of artillery."

Early in January, 1822, Dixon arrived from Selcurk's settlement at Fort Snelling, accompanied by Alex Bailley, who in subsequent years lived at Wabshaw shore, below Lake Pepin and was a member of the Minnesota Legislature.

In 1824 Major Talliaferro went from Fort Snelling to Washington with a delegation of Chippewas and Dakotas. On their return they visited New York City and William Dixon, a half-breed son of Robert Dixon, took the Dakotas to see the Rev. Samuel Peters. The latter gave to Little Crow, the grandfather of the Sioux Chief who led the Indians in the massacre of the whites of the Minnesota valley, a new gun in consideration of the signing of a certain paper by which the heirs of Jonathan Carger hoped to attain from Congress the land upon which St. Paul and Minneapolis is built.

The next year there arrived in a keel boat at Fort Snelling a box marked "Col. Robert Dixon," which was found to contain a few presents from Bishop Peters to Dixon's Indian wife, and a long letter and a copy of Carter's alleged grant of land from the Sioux, written on parchment.

Colonel Dixon died at Queenstown, Canada. The wife of Joseph LaFramboise, an old settler of the Minnesota valley, was a granddaughter of Dixon.

Leaf Lake township was without a railroad until 1902, when the Minneapolis, St. Paul & Sault Ste. Marie railroad was built through the county. This road crosses the southwestern corner of the township, but so far there is not a station in the township. In fact, there has never been a village within the limits of the township, although a summer resort was platted in section 25 in 1906. This plat, known as Leaf Side, is located on the south side of East Leaf lake and was laid out by O. H. Molden for A. D. and Mary E. Peck.

The present township officers are as follows: Supervisors, Olaf Tervola, D. Grefe and John Sume; clerk, G. H. Miller; treasurer, Ole Haugan; assessor, H. Anderson; justices, H. Anderson and Nels Ring; constables, P. Jaijala and H. Matti.

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CHAPTER XIV.

TOWNSHIPS OF OTTER TAIL COUNTY, 1880-81.

CANDOR TOWNSHIP.

There were two townships organized on January 8, 1880, by the county commissioners—Candor and Star Lake. Candor was one of the first townships organized in the northern tier township and came into existence as a result of the satisfactory petition of twenty-five legal voters residing in township 137, range 41. On the 26th of the same month the first election for county officers was held at the house of A. Bradberry.

The names of the legal voters of said township who contributed to its organization were as follows: H. P. Johnson, Samuel Burgner, Charles French, Herbert Kinkle, George B. Grass, John Morneval, T. A. Blem, C. Drake, John Wallace, Isaac M. Spike, Iver Reynolds, H. C. Cook, F. Klug, H. A. Bradburg, Carl Glanex, Robert Schram, William Furnold, F. A. Blossom, Fred Green, A. A. Drake, Daniel M. Still, Frank S. Biekle, Andrew Becke, William Glanex and M. B. Bradburg.

This township was the forty-fifth to be organized in the county and this may be accounted for by the fact that it was so far distant from the county seat. Located in the northern tier of townships it is nearly forty miles from Fergus Falls, while its nearest trading center for many years was Pelican Rapids, more than twelve miles distant. The building of the Soo line through the township in 1903 put it in touch with the outside world and has been the means of appreciably raising the value of land in the township.

Several lakes are to be found within the confines of the township, the chief ones being Leek, Hand, Loon, Hook, Otter, Cooks, Schrams, Ida and part of Sauer, the latter being mostly in Becker county. In addition to these there are a number of smaller bodies of water scattered over the township. The general elevation of the township is above a thousand feet and the many lakes do not prevent the farmers from having well drained and productive farms.

There have been two town sites platted in the township, Vergas and Elmwood. Elmwood was platted by Martin Aalberg for James and Etta M. Nesbitt and recorded in the office of the register of deeds, July 14, 1911. It is located in the southern part of Candor township, sections 34 and 35, township 137, range 43.

Vergas.

The present village of Vergas was platted and later incorporated under the name of Altona. This thriving little trading center is located on the Soo

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line in the southeastern part of the township. It was platted for the Minnesota and Loan Trust Company in the fall of 1903, the plat being recorded on October 30. This company platted a number of villages along the Soo line through Otter Tail county, and each plat bears the signature of Eugene A. Merrill, president of the company.

The village was incorporated as a result of an election held on February 21, 1905, at which time all of the twenty-six voters of the village expressed their desire by ballot for incorporation. A petition had been presented to the commissioners on the 4th of the preceding January asking for such an election, the petition being signed by thirty-three voters, as follow: Veeder G. Buck, E. S. Ferguson, Edmund Pausch, Charles A. Peterson, A. Eichmiller, F. B. Wilson, John G. Rieman, G. H. Brooks, Adam Dey, Henry Schultz, Arthur Fankhanel, C. H. Cummings, Edward Sunnenberg, H. Schattschneider, F. G. Smith, E. L. Norton, W. L. Taylor, A. H. Wilcox, Bernhard Stangenes, M. Popplar, James Nesbitt, Albert Ament, John Zeigler, J. O. Brass, Ralph Hunter, Alvin Herting, Oscar Walde, Philip Eichmiller, J. E. King, William Sauer, Edward Marks, T. J. Randall and Herman Lenke. At this time a census showed one hundred and forty-four people living in the village.

The name of the village was changed from Altona to Vergas as a result of an election held November 6, 1906, at which time thirty-one votes were cast, twenty-seven being for the change and only four against it. Vergas has a population at present of two hundred and seventy-five. The village contains a German Lutheran church, a bank, hotel, creamery, planning mill, feed mill and grain elevator. It is on the extreme end of the Soo line in this county and accommodates a large section in the northern part of the county which otherwise would have to travel many miles to another town. The present postmaster is Bernard Staughes.

The present village officers are as follow: President, John Bruhn; trustees, E. L. Brooks, John G. Rieman and Phil Eichmiller; clerk, Charles A. Peterson; treasurer, W. F. Ladwig; assessor, Nick Ebersviller; justices, A. Priske and A. H. Wetmur; constables, H. F. Hinze and Fred Kraus.

STAR LAKE TOWNSHIP.

The township of Star Lake was organized by the commissioners on January 18, 1880, in response to a petition signed by twenty-five legal voters living in township 135, range 41. Its name and territorial limits have never been changed since its organization. The first election for township officers was held on the 24th of January at the house of Minder Born. The petition, bearing the signatures of the twenty-five legal voters, was dated June 2, 1879. Their names follow: Sylas Mansfield, Newton Jenne, Dayton W. Jenne, August Bon, Jasper Jones, Leemon Loop, H. C. Jenne, Niel A. Perry,

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Charles C. Perry, Mahlon M. Morris, Leonard Jenne, William Doyle, Morris Fullberton, Herman Biersdorff, Asa Phelps, Frederik Vogel, Montgomery Berfield, T. W. Aldrich, C. W. Jenne, R. S. Miles, B. F. Berry, C. Farrand, D. Barly, F. Hodge, Jefferson Durman, D. Corey, William Dalton, Jacob Ott and M. A. Boen.

The township was named from the lake which in shape bears a striking resemblance to a star fish. This lake is spread out over the northeastern portion of the township and touches fourteen sections. Dead lake is partly in the township and it covers two more sections of land. A dozen or more smaller lakes are to be found scattered over the township, so that, in all, over one-third of the land is covered by water. Notwithstanding the large water area there is considerable valuable farming land in the township. The surface of the township is decidedly rugged, with sharp hills and deep valleys in many parts.

There has never been a platted village in the township and only one store. At this one store was maintained a postoffice for many years which went by the name of Star Lake. It was located in the northern part of section 34.

The present township officers are as follow: Supervisors, F. J. Vogel, M. H. Hart and O. H. Chapman; clerk, A. L. Vogel; treasurer, H. Mader; assessor, George Sherwood; justices, F. J. Vogel and Victor Drake; constables, E. Collins and C. Halstead.

ELMO TOWNSHIP.

The county commissioners received a petition on March 16, 1880, signed by a majority of the legal voters living in township 132, range 37, and on the same date granted the request of the petitioners for the organization of a township to be known as Elmo. The petition was dated March 13, 1880, and bore the following names: John Murray, Richard J. West, Benjamin Stewart, Henry Wolhart, L. L. Livemora, James Murray, Michael Murray, Philip H. West, Leddouk Miner, William Murray, Frank Henderson, Bengt Nilsjon, David Orr, O. Olson, Julius Chafanear, Emerson Farr, John Shools, J. Harst, G. Stanley and Taque ———.

In accordance with the desire of the citizens of the township was called Elmo, and started its official career with its first election on the fifth of the following month. The election was held at the house of L. S. Levorsen, who was a substantial citizen living in section 32.

This was one of the two townships organized by the commissioners at their March meeting of that year. It is located in the southeastern part of the county and is bounded by Inman on the north, Folden on the west, Parkers Prairie on the south, Woodside on the east. This township is almost out of the lake region, as there are only six small lakes within its limits.

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Wing River lake is the largest of these and forms the head waters of Wing river. The water shed of Wing and Leaf rivers runs northeast and southwest through this township. The southern half is drained by two small streams which are tributaries of Wing river and empty into it at the northwestern corner of section twenty-four. The northern part of the township is drained into three small lakes in sections 9 and 4, which are the head waters of Leaf river. The farms in this section are under good cultivation and farmers are very prosperous. The Minneapolis, St. Paul & Sault Ste. Marie railroad runs northwest through the entire length of the township, entering in section 33 and leaving at section 6. There is only one station on this road, Almora, which is the only town platted within the limits of the township. Its plat, made by Martin Aalberg for Cyrus A. and Ada B. Campbell, was recorded October 3, 1903.

DUNN TOWNSHIP.

Dunn township was the forty-eighth township organized in the county. The first specific mention of the township dates back to September 4, 1873, at which time the commissioners attached it to Scambler for township purposes, but it was not until seven years later that the population was such as to warrant its organization as an independent civil township. The law provided that a congressional township must have at least twenty-five legal voters before it could petition for organization as a civil township and it took a majority of the voters to effect the organization. One of the most prominent of the early settlers of Dunn township was George W. Dunn and his standing in the community is shown by the fact that when the congressional township in which he lived was organized on March 16, 1880, the commissioners named it in his honor. The petition asking for the organization of the township was dated March 9, 1880, and carried the following names: O. A. Burdick, D. Burbank, H. C. Jordon, L. T. Cornish, W. G. Burbank, G. W. Dunn, Reuben Page, J. A. Page, Samuel Dunn, Phillip Lapp, Lemuel H. Baker, William Page, William H. Moon, William E. Dunn, Charles Baker, I. N. Hubbard, Albert Miggdorff, Isaac Johnson, Orrin Cowles, Payson E. Epham, Eli O'Neilly and Charles Hyatt. The petitioners had asked that the new township be called Blaine, but the commissioners refused their request and honored Dunn by calling it after him. The board fixed April 5, 1880, for the first election and ordered it held at the house of George W. Dunn.

This is one of the many townships of the county which has experienced difficulty in getting a satisfactory name. A petition dated July 26, 1882, and signed by O. A. Burdick, Reuben Page, C. Hyatt, W. H. Wood, Joseph Kranick, George W. Dunn, S. W. Baker, J. A. Page, William A. Dunn, Hollis Peirce and D. Burbank was presented to the county commissioners on

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January 5, 1883, asking that the township be named Marysville. However, the board did not grant their request and as a result a second petition was at once circulated throughout the township asking that the name be changed either to Brighton or Mobile. This second petition, dated March 13, 1883, and presented to the board on the 26th of the following July, bore the following signatures: O. A. Burdick, P. E. Upham, O. Bonnell, J. A. Page, H. C. Jordan, I. N. Hubbard, Peter Danielson, John Drews, Henry Williams, John W. Cody, Milan Crocher, Christ Matzdorf, Edwin Richter, Joseph Kranick, William H. Woal, William E. Dunn, Jacob Johnson, M. H. Gore, O. S. Johnson, G. W. Derwin, E. M. Hardin, S. H. Dunn, P. Page, Cyrus Dana, Chas. Hyatt, F. W. Dickrey, George Cornish, W. S. Young, Orvin Cowles, W. E. Page, Isaac Johnson, Isaac D. Johnson, Simund H. Baker, Hollis Peirce, G. F. Gorr and H. G. Bragg. Again the commissioners refused to change the name of the township and thus came to an end the efforts on the part of the citizens to have their township rechristened.

Dunn has parts of three large lakes within its limits, namely, Pelican, Lizzie and Franklin. Pelican river enters this township in section 1 from Becker county and flows through Little Pelican, Pelican and Lizzie lakes. The surface of the township is exceedingly rugged in many places and with its lakes and wooded hills makes one of the most picturesque townships in the county. No village has ever been platted within its limits, although four summer resorts have been platted since 1902. These are all located on the shores of the lakes and are populated only in the summer season. Killarney Beach was platted by Martin Aalberg on October 29, 1902, for Minnie H. and M. C. Barry. It is located on the shores of Pelican lake in section 4.

Provan Beach is located on the shores of Pelican lake in sections 4 and 9. It was platted for Samuel J. Brown by Nathan Butler and recorded August 27, 1907, in the office of the register of deeds.

Midland Beach was platted by Emanuel Neilson for John K. and Agnes B. West. It is located in the northern part of the township in section 2. The plat was recorded July 23, 1908.

Sun Light Hills is located in the northern part of the township in section 3. It was platted by John Oss for Mike Murphy and recorded March 27, 1912.

The present township officers are as follow: Supervisors, William Holbrook, John J. Kvare and W. B. McLeod; clerk, Anton Peterson; treasurer, Leonard Johnson; assessor, H. O. Hagen; justice, Leonard Johnson; constable, Daniel Arickson.

MAPLEWOOD TOWNSHIP.

Prosper Lavalley and a number of other voters residing in township 135, range 42, (now known as Maplewood township) appeared before the

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county commissioners on July 26, 1880, with a petition properly signed by a majority of voters of said township, asking for its organization as a civil township under the name of St. Agnes. The board granted the request of the petitioners and designated the house of Lavalley, a prosperous citizen living in section 28, as a place for holding the first election on the 14th of the following month. About two years after St. Agnes was organized the residents of the township became dissatisfied with its name and as a result they appeared before the county commissioners with a petition, dated February 23, 1882, which contained the following names: W. H. Shadville, E. W. Seeper, C. J. Brockett, F. J. Young, B. G. Emery, Peder P. Anderson, Christ Olson, Christ Fodgberg, Gustav Shay, A. Anderson, C. A. Yungner, A. Wagstrain, Peter Miller, John Olmsted, Johannes Nilson, A. Fodgberg, Peter Pederson, Hans Olsen, C. J. Herman, K. D. Thompson, Lars Rassmussen, P. E. Peterson, Peder Ellinson, Erik Erikson, P. S. Johnson, John Leeper, Ben Grant, J. B. Bishop, Henry Shachirk, H. O. Wing, Ole H. Wing and Ole Olson. This petition, presented to the county commissioners on May 2, 1882, asked that the name of township 135, range 42, be changed from St. Agnes to that of Forest Lake or Maplewood. The commissioners granted the request on the above mentioned date, and as there was another Forest Lake in the state, the name was changed to Maplewood which it retains to the present day.

For some reason the citizens of the township were not satisfied with the name Maplewood and in the summer of 1890 presented a petition to the commissioners asking that it be called St. Johnsbury or St. Agnes. This petition, dated June 25, 1890, contained the following names. Prosper Lavalley, W. H. Lavalley, George Blanchard, B. G. Emery, Charles Emery, Christian Pedersen, Peter Pedersen, P. T. Anderson, Ole Oleson, Hulston Wing, Ole H. Wing, F. E. Dolphin, Joseph Raney, S. N. Lavalley, Mitchell Mitsel, Frederick Kulson, Peter Willer, Henry Shadville, Joseph Shadville, William Shadville and John Olmstead. The commissioners refused to grant their request and since that time no effort has been made to change the name of the township.

Maplewood township has a very rugged appearance. More than a score of lakes are to be found within its limits, the largest being Lida, Beers, Crystal, Twin, Long and Fremont. Although the surface of the township is decidedly broken, yet there is much excellent farming land. The township lies wholly within the basin of Pelican river.

There has never been a village in the township. Before the introduction of the rural free delivery a postoffice was maintained at Arthur and later at Worden, the former being in section 12 and the latter in section 22. The present town hall is in the center of section 22. Churches are found in sec-

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tions 8, 15 and 27, and a cemetery is maintained in connection with each church.

The present township officers are as follow: Supervisors, O. H. Nodsle, J. E. Hauger and Andrew Dennison; clerk, C. A. Mesna; treasurer, Iver Anderson; assessor, H. Halloway; justices, Richard Reedy and H. B. Emery; constables, E. C. Southwick and Max Wait.

HOMESTEAD TOWNSHIP.

The citizens residing in the unorganized congressional townships now embraced within the civil townships of Homestead, Butler, Pine Lake and Corliss presented a petition to the county commissioners on July 26, 1880, asking for the organization of this territory, twelve miles square, into one civil township. The petition was rejected by the board on the ground that there was too much territory in the proposed township. Accordingly another petition was presented on the same day, having evidently been prepared with a view of providing for such contingency. This second petition called for the organization of a township comprehended within the present limits of Homestead township. Evidently the major portion of the inhabitants of the four congressional townships represented in the first petition lived in what is now known as Homestead township. This second petition was granted by the commissioners and the new township was given the name of Runyon at the request of the petitioners. The first election was held on the 14th of the following month at the house of Alfred Lane in section 28. The name of the township was later changed to Homestead by the order of the county commissioners. The second petition, July 26, 1880, contained the names of the following legal voters: G. D. Runyon, Levi Oberdrear, A. Harey, C. B. Fiske, W. B. Mitchell, G. T. Denison, A. O. Sherman, James Dunn, A. U. Taylor, N. E. McKee, Alfred Lane, Hans Christianson, David B. Williams, T. Murphy, S. G. Richmond, James Stolt, S. Runyon, I. Runyon, F. Shlers, Thomas Raon, A. J. Davis, H. Davis, John Galliger, H. C. Aitkinson and P. Downing.

This is one of the few townships in the county without any lakes, although thirty years ago there were at least two lakes which appeared on the county map—one in section 9 and the other in section 18. Bluff creek arises in the eastern part of the township and flows in a southerly direction leaving the township in the center of section 35. The surface of the township is generally level, although the northwestern part is quite rugged.

There has never been a platted village in the township and the nearest approach to a village is found in the north central part of section 4. As early as 1880 there was a blacksmith shop at this point and a general store. The postoffice was established here and named Davies in honor of the mer-

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chant who handled the mail. The postoffice was discontinued many years ago and the township is now served by the rural free delivery.

The present township officers are as follow: Supervisors, G. A. Johnson, Math Lohi and Arno Poser; clerk, Frank Maasch; treasurer, Herman Kampsula; assessor, Roy Verbeck; justices, Math Jakola and A. J. Davies; constables, Vano Nervonen and Arthur Huldman.

CARLISLE TOWNSHIP.

The township of Carlisle (township 133, range 44) was organized February 24, 1881, by the commissioners upon receiving a petition of a majority of the legal voters of that congressional township. The first election of township officers was held at the house of Martin Hexam on the 14th of the following month. The petition asking for the organization of the township carried the names of the following qualified electors of the proposed township: Jacob Kiewel, Martin Hexam, A. O. Grotte, Charles Spilman, R. Fautch, Ludwig Weber, Mathew Fautsch, Simon Giser, Oscar Porson, Oly Olson, Vincent Mynek, O. O. Dahlby, Hans C. Salhre, S. Johnson, Ole N. Nykus, Nils N. Nykus and Nils O. Garnor.

Carlisle township was the fifty-first township to be organized. This was due to the general swampiness of most of the land and the difficulty of draining it without going to great expense. Two large lakes and a number of smaller ones are found in the northern part of the township. The Pelican river meanders into the township along the eastern side, but passes out before it reaches the southern line of the township. The elevation of the township above sea level ranges from one thousand feet in the southwestern part to thirteen hundred feet in the northeastern portion, with a general average of about twelve hundred feet.

Two railroad lines touch the township, the Great Northern cutting across the northeastern corner and the Northern Pacific running nearly the full length of the township on the south. The village of Carlisle is the only station on the former and French has a similar honor for the other railroad.

Carlisle was platted on section 2 by Robert Miller for Peter and Marcus Mauren and the plat recorded on December 20, 1879.

The present township officers are as follow: Supervisors, William Zimmer, O. M. Hexum and J. J. Tomhave; clerk, C. Evjen; treasurer, Frank Fjestad; assessor, E. Fjestad; justice, E. Fjestad; constable, C. Evjen.

FOLDEN TOWNSHIP.

Folden township was organized by the county commissioners on February 24, 1881, in response to a petition signed by a majority of the legal voters of congressional township 132, range 38. The election of the first township officials took place at the house of Ole Larson on the 14th of the

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following month. The original petition of the voters asking for the organization of the township is not on file with the records of the county commissioners. It has been ascertained, however, that the early settlers included John A. Aldrich, David Noonan, W. M. Conklin, Theodore Thompson, B. P. Johnson, Julius Langnus, Kleber B. Wilkinson, R. R. Wilkinson, Frank Wheeler, Emil Syverson, Martin Oleson, Frank J. Barta, Lars Anderson, Martin Peterson, Johann Larson, Arnt Munson, Hans Nelson, Roland Haagenson, Ole Larson, G. Gesler, Olaf Haagen, G. A. Kallack, G. N. Restad, Erik Larson, Albert Thomas and S. I. Hensing.

No village, no postoffice and not even a lake of respectable size is to be found within the limits of this township. When it was organized in 1881 nearly one-half of it was still owned by the railroads while both school sections, 16 and 36, were still owned by the state. Gradually the railroads disposed of their holdings and today they own only a few hundred acres in the township.

The branch line of the Northern Pacific runs across the northwestern corner of the township through sections 5 and 6, but there is no station stop in the township. The town hall is in the southwestern corner of section 15.

The present township officers are as follow: Supervisors, G. N. Rakstad, Arnt Monson and Ellef Olson; clerk, A. N. Rakstad; treasurer, G. G. Watnaas; assessor, Gunder Gunderson; justices, Lauritz Larson and Otto Johnson; constables, Peter Albertson and Thorwald Nelson.

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CHAPTER XV.

TOWNSHIPS OF OTTER TAIL COUNTY, 1882-97.

EDNA TOWNSHIP.

Edna township (township 136, range 40) was first organized under the name of Cuba. Gustave Grunert and other citizens of the proposed township petitioned the commissioners on March 21, 1882, for the organization of a civil township to be known as Cuba. There were twenty-seven signers to the petition asking for the organization of Edna township, but since nearly all of them were written in German script—and poor script at that—it is impossible to give the complete list. Those which can be deciphered are as follow: Gustave Grunert, George A. Etzell, Gerhard Falk, Oren Cram, Eugene Cram, George W. Niebergall, Ernst Haarbs, P. A. Niebergall, Charles Altstadt, Albert Zitzan, John Karsnia, John Altstadt, Heinrich Zitzan, Thomas Morris, Paulie Ragalla, Martin Gaike and Paul Ragalla. The names not given are in such poorly written German script that it is impossible to translate them.

The election of the first officials was held on the fourth of the following month at the residence of George W. Niebergall. However, the new township rejoiced in the name of Cuba only a short time, as is evidenced by the following statement taken from the commissioners' record of May 2, 1882:

"In the matter of a statement from the state auditor that the name 'Cuba' for a new organized township not being admissable, the board of commissioners adopted the following resolution: Resolved that the township 136, range 40, be changed from Cuba to that of Edna, it appearing from report of state auditor that the name Cuba has already been given to a township in Becker county."

Edna was the forty-third township organized in this county. It is bounded on the north by Hobart, on the west by Dora, on the south by Dead Lake and on the east by Perham. This township has a large water acreage and some of the land is surrounded by the lakes in such a manner as to make it very difficult to reach without travelling a great distance. The land in section 20 is a good example of this township. To reach Dent, which is the trading center for this township, a distance of two miles as the crow flies, one has to travel seven miles, and go completely around the eastern part of Big McDonald lake. This reduces the value of the farm land in this section to a great extent. There are twenty-six lakes lying wholly within the territory of this township. Big and Little McDonald lakes are the largest

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bodies. The former has an area of nearly four sections, while the latter has an area of almost three sections. The lakes which are given names on the map are as follows: Moer Kedrick, Ceynowa, Paul Wolf, Pelowski, Rice, Pickeral, Boos, Glenard, Wendt, Heart and Mink. Dures lake cuts the northeastern corner of this township and Lake Sybil, the northwestern corner.

The Minneapolis, St. Paul & Sault Ste. Marie railway passes through the entire length of the county from north to south. This road experienced as much trouble when the survey was made in dodging the numerous lakes as the farmers do in getting to market. This road was built through this county in 1902, and has one station, Dent, in this township.

Dent.

The building of the Soo line through Otter Tail county was responsible for the platting of at least five towns on its right of way, and four of these were platted by the Minnesota Loan and Trust Company. Dent, located in section 34, was surveyed by Martin Aalberg on August 19, 1903

A census taken on the 19th day of July, 1904, shows a population of one hundred and sixty-nine residents in said territory. This induced the citizens to ask to be incorporated and they at once prepared a petition to that effect. The following legal voters signed the petition: Peter Schumacher, J. E. Besler, H. Winkler, William J. Hoffman, Peter Jonas, A. M. Heck, Fred Lubberman, Henry J. Krekerberg, A. J. Smith, Gust Hazelkauf, William Victor, William Schloesser, Thomas Coughlan, William Ruhoff, John H. Krekelberg, A. M. Murphy, William Albright, J. A. Schmitz, Louis Honer, Wilhelm Hieth, Charles Stender, Frank Hassler, George F. Partridge, R. Harthen, D. J. Cooper, M. D., and R. R. Cooper.

The election on the question of incorporation was held on September 6, 1904, and resulted in twenty-nine votes in favor of the proposition and none against.

The growth of this village has been rather slow as shown by the present census which gives this village a population of approximately two hundred and fifty. Dent is located in the heart of the lake region and this makes it a very suitable location for resorts. In consequence the village is alive during the summer months, while in the winter business is not so flourishing. The Homestead elevator does a large business in buying and shipping grain. The banking interests of this community are carried on through the Farmers State Bank.

Dent is twenty-two miles northwest of Henning. It has a German Lutheran and an Evangelical church, a hotel, grain elevator, feed mill and creamery. Charles M. Perdue is the present postmaster.

The present village officers are as follows: President, G. Wagner;

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trustees, J. Ruebke, E. Borup and J. S. Elliott; clerk, J. J. Harms; treasurer, E. J. Stoll; justices, C. Perdue and W. J. Brown; constable, Fred Talske.

GIRARD TOWNSHIP.

Girard township was created by the county commissioners on March 21, 1882, in response to a petition signed by D. W. Wolcott and others, praying that township 133, range 39, be organized under the above name. The twenty-five legal voters of Girard township who signed the petition asking for the organization of the township were as follow: D. W. Wolcott, J. C. Howard, R. Oaks, Sr., Jesse Burdick, A. W. Whiting, J. L. Whiting, A. Whiting, D. I. Newman, E. B. Anderson, R. B. Anderson, R. Oaks, Jr., James W. Anderson, W. W. Anderson, M. M. Anderson, J. L. Boyd, George W. Werner, Nels Werner, F. D. Ayers, Simon McAteer, Wallace Johnson, Thomas L. Mason and George Fort. This county was ushered in on the same day with Edna and Paddock township and in the order of organization it ranks fifty-fifth. It is bounded on the north by Otter Tail, on the west by Everts, on the south by Nidaros and on the east by Henning. This is truly a township of lakes. There are twelve lakes lying wholly or partly within this township which have an acreage of approximately seven thousand acres, or almost one-third of the entire township. West Battle lake is the largest with East Battle lake a close second. Lakes Blanche, Mason, Tamarack, Emma, Ethel, Beauty Shore, Annie Battle, Park, Gourd and Hanson follow in the order of their size. The lakes of this township present a more striking appearance than some of those in other sections of the county and especially some of those townships which can boast a greater number. This is due to their size and beautiful surroundings, which can hardly be excelled in any other section. This township has never had a railroad within its limits and it is safe to predict that it never will. This is due, however, to the location of the lakes which almost surround the township. The Wadena and Fergus Falls branch of the Northern Pacific should have been run through this township in order to give it the shortest line, but it was impossible to build a road around the lakes. The great extension of the lakes also makes it very hard to lay out roads and the farmers living within this township have to travel many unnecessary miles to get their products to market. In East Battle lake there are two islands of one hundred and seventy-five and sixty-two acres, respectively. The present township officers are as follow: Supervisors, George Huggett, Ray Kimber and R. W. Reed; clerk, W. T. Perry; treasurer, Gust Hanson; assessor, Hjalmer Magenson; justice, Lester Whiting; constable, F. Kimber. There are three platted towns in this township. They are all located on the shores of different lakes as follow:

Stuart Lake Park was platted by Martin Aalberg for A. L. Murdock

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and recorded in the office of the register of deeds, July 25, 1902. It is located on the shores of Stuart lake and West Battle lake in Girard township.

Beauty Shore is located in Girard township on the shore of Beauty Shore lake. It was platted by O. G. Molden for Peter and Christiana Hansen (his wife) and recorded in the office of the register of deeds, January 4, 1911.

Woodland was platted by Martin Aalberg for H. O. and Anne Moe (his wife) and recorded in the office of the register of deeds August 1, 1913. It is located on the shore of West Battle lake in Girard township.

PADDOCK TOWNSHIP.

Paddock township (township 137, range 36) is located in the extreme northeastern part of the county and is upwards of seventy-five miles from the county seat. A petition, asking for organization and signed by L. A. Paddock and others representing a majority of the legal voters of the township, was presented to the commissioners on March 21, 1882, and at once granted by the board. The first election was set for the 4th of the following month at the mill of Paddock in whose honor the township was named. The records state that this mill was located on section 32.

The petition asking for the organization of Paddock township carried thirty-seven signatures, as follow: William Everts, Harry F. Smith, H. G. Lewis, L. A. Pollock, A. A. Buckland, William Pratt, N. A. Britt, A. D. Reed, Joseph King, G. W. Smith, A. J. Phillips, Eli D. Robinson, David Traille, Silas Munn, J. Gallagher, J. A. Russell, S. C. Honeywell, John Johnson, David Perkins, R. W. Calwell, R. B. Shelp, Jones Smiley, Frank Rodgers, Charles Stan, Willis Scott, Albert S. Gore, Levi Storkwell, John Daly, J. B. Hankman, E. S. Johnson, David Shelp, D. J. Wilson and Charles Hodge.

There are only two lakes of any considerable size in Paddock township, one in sections 14 and 15 and the other in sections 19, 20, 30 and 29. Red Eye river runs through the township from west to east and flows through sections 18, 17, 21, 22, 23, 26 and 25. The surface of the township is gently rolling and practically all of it is capable of being cultivated.

Several years ago there were two thriving little trading centers in the township, Red Eye and Paddock. Red Eye was in the center of section 17 and at one time contained a store, saw-mill, hotel and cemetery, and a few houses. Today there is only a store. The name of the postoffice at this point was later known as Hill View, but it is now discontinued. Paddock boasted of more than half a dozen buildings thirty years ago, among them being a store, blacksmith shop, saw-mill and a few dwelling houses. A postoffice was maintained at this place also for many years. At the present time

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the only store in the township is at Hill View, the former Red Eye, of section 17.

The first church was located in the northern part of section 20, but it has also disappeared. The only church in the township at the present time is found in the southeastern corner of section 26. The town hall is in the northeastern corner of section 14.

Olaf James was the last postmaster of Hillview. This little hamlet has a hotel called the Hillview Hotel with L. C. Anderson as manager. The Hillview Creamery is located at this point and is managed by Isaac Anderson. There are at present some twenty-five inhabitants in this hamlet.

The present township officers are as follow: Supervisors, Leander Niska, George Warner and John Tontti; clerk, C. H. Hattlestad; treasurer, Matti Raatikka; assessor, Charles Beldoniemi; justices, M. O. Egg and E. D. Hall; constables, J. P. Nevola and T. J. Parrish.

PINE LAKE TOWNSHIP.

An effort was made on March 22, 1880, to organize a civil township out of the four congressional townships, then unorganized, now known as Pine Lake, Corliss, Homestead and Butler, but the commissioners refused to grant the request of the petitioners because they considered the proposed township too large. This petition was signed by the following qualified voters of the four congressional townships above mentioned: A. O. Sherman, James U. Still, George D. Runyon, Levi Oberdiear, Charles B. Fiske, A. Herey, I. B. Greene, William Runyon, David B. William, Charles Runyon, A. M. Taylor, Alfred Saure, James Galleger and Thomas Roon.

Pine Lake township was created by the county commissioners on January 5, 1883, upon the representation of William Boedigheimer and twenty-three other legal voters of the township that the territory in question had a total of twenty-nine citizens of voting age, all but five of whom had signed the petition asking for the creation of the township. The new township was called Pine Lake at the request of the petitioners, who also asked in that petition that the first election be held at the house of Joseph Daiker on the 23rd of the same month. The petition asking for the organization of the township contained twenty-four of the twenty-nine legal voters of the county, to-wit: Matthew Geiseri, John Scheideaker, John Durum, Charlie H. Billings, Martin Schmit, Joseph Daiker, Bernard McManus, G. Kukouski, Charles Gelohin, Julius Glinn, Julius Hollstein, Henrick Harbicht, Hugh McManus, Anton Wagner, Joseph A. Boedigheimer, William Boedigheimer, Gustav Morgenroth, Simon Hauck, Aloys Hauck, John M. Reinhart, Albrecht Strehlow, Henrich Fruchting, Joseph L. Meyer and Albert Harrmann.

Pine Lake was so named originally because of the trees of that species

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which surrounded it. It was but natural that the township which included the greater portion of this lake should receive the same name. In fact Pine lake is the only body of water of any size in the township and it covers approximately six sections. Red river, which flows through Pine lake, enters the township in section 6 and leaves it in section 18. The eastern part of the township is drained by small streams which empty into Pine lake. The topography of this township is not unlike that of many other townships in the county. The remainder of the township is slightly rolling, sufficiently so as to make it easily drained. The soil is uniformly fertile and farmers are not yet compelled to resort to artificial fertilizers in order to get good crops.

The Northern Pacific railroad, which was built through the county in 1871, passes through the southwestern corner of this township and the only village in the township is located in section 33 on this railroad. It was platted by George A. Burbank for Albert and Agusta Boedigheimer, the plat being recorded September 27, 1899. The village was platted as Richland, but owing to the fact that there was another town of the same name in the state, it was later changed to Richdale. The latter has a general store and postoffice which is managed by William Jezewski, who has the sole responsibility of both.

The present township officers are as follow: Supervisors, E. Wendt, William Boedigheimer and Charles Bahls; clerk, J. B. Hemmelgarn; treasurer, F. Rosenthal; assessor, John Schekal; justice, William Jezekski.

OTTO TOWNSHIP.

The township now known as Otto was first organized on March 14, 1871, and attached to Rush Lake township for civil and criminal jurisdiction. It remained a part of the latter township until March 22, 1883, when the commissioners organized it as Otto township upon the petition of George Udell, and thirty others residents of congressional township 135, range 38. The petitioners asked that the township be called Lake View, but for some reason, which is not stated in the record the board saw fit to call it Otto. The first election for township officials was held at the Jacob Smith school house on Tuesday, April 10, 1893.

The thirty-one signers of the petition asking for the organization of Otto township were as follow: George Udell, G. McDonald, Jacob Anderson, Isaac West, John Teuki, Nils Johansen, Levi Stevens, S. F. Sawyer, Solomon ———, Isak Carl Lunt, Ysak Mikalson (next three names illegible) Henry Johnson, Gustav Wakkinen (next four names illegible), C. J. Hayes, E. Reynolds, William Roberts, Fred Reynolds, Edward Hewitt, Eliza Udell, William Smith, Martin Gillespie and John Smith. The illegible names on the petition are very evidently Norwegian or German.

Otto township lies in the immediate basin of the Red river system and,

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although it has no lake entirely within its limits, at least half of Rush lake is in the township. Section 19 is entirely covered by this lake, the greater part of sections 20 and 30, as well as parts of sections 18, 29, 21 and 28. This lake drains the entire township and is a great benefit for artificial drainage. The Red river enters this township in the southwestern part of section 6 and flows through sections 7 and 18, where it empties into Rush lake. This was the fifty-seventh township organized in the county, although it had been attached to Rush Lake for civil and criminal jurisdiction since 1871. It is bounded on the north by Pine Lake, on the west by Rush Lake, on the south by Leaf Lake and on the east by Newton. The Northern Pacific railroad runs through the northeast corner of the state, passing diagonally through sections 1 and 2. It is evident that this township was settled much earlier than some of the other townships that were organized much sooner, but evidently the settlers did not feel the need for separate township government. It is truly an agricultural township as there is no platted village within its limits. Before the advent of the rural routes there was a postoffice at St. Lawrence. The town hall is located in section 21. There are three churches in the township, one in section 31, another in section 7 and a third in section 26. This township is thickly settled as evinced by the size of the farms which range from forty to one hundred and sixty acres.

The present township officers are as follow: Supervisors, Walter Reynolds and John Perala; clerk, Walter West; treasurer, Jones Ogala; assessor, William Oman; justice, Joe Nau; constable, Charles Nampa.

BUTLER TOWNSHIP.

An effort had been made a searly as 1880 to organize a civil township out of the territory now embraced within Butler, Corliss, Pine Lake and Homestead townships, but when a petition from the citizens of this territory asked on July 26, of that year, for such a township it was refused on the ground that it included too large a tract of land. Homestead was organized at that time, but it was not until July 26, 1883, that township 137, range 37, presented a petition asking for its establishment as a civil township. On this latter date A. O. Richardson and sixteen others, a majority of the legal voters of the congressional township, appeared before the board asking for the organization of the civil township to be known by the name of Red Eye. The petitioners were as follow: A. O. Richardson, Isaac Beetle, J. W. McCallum, J. Fish, William Matthews, P. B. Thompson, Jr., S. V. Wheaten, H. Budke, A. J. Pierce, H. G. McKibben, W. H. Kimball, David Traille, Charles Kimball, Horace Kimball, John McGuire, Peter McGuire and J. S. Richardson. The board granted this petition on the above mentioned date, but refused their assent to the name Red Eye, calling

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it Butler instead. The first election was held at the residence of Peter McGuire on August 15, 1883.

Butler township lies on the northern border of Otter Tail county and in the second tier of townships from Wadena county. It is bounded on the north by Becker county, on the west by Corliss township, on the south by Homestead and on the east by Paddock. Bear lake, on the western side, is the largest body of water. Swamp lake, Lake Edna, Havey lake and Pierce lake are smaller bodies of water in this township, although there are several smaller lakes which bear no names. There are no streams in the southern half of the township but the northern half is well drained by Red Eye river and its tributaries. Red Eye river enters from Becker county in the center of section 4. It then takes a southeastern course and leaves the township in the northeastern part of section 13. Bear creek is the outlet for Bear lake and flows through the central part emptying into Red Eye river only a short distance from where the latter enters Paddock township. Another small creek drains the northwestern part and joins Red Eye river in the north central part of section ten. These are the main avenues of drainage for the northern part of the township. There is no platted town within the limits of this township, although there is a postoffice at Butler. The latter is located in the northeastern corner of section fifteen. A very plausible reason for the lateness of the organization of this township is its remoteness from the seat of justice. In traveling from the northeast corner of the township to the county seat one has to traverse sixty miles.

The present township officers are as follow: Supervisors, Joe Fish, Gotliev Janke and J. H. Imonen; clerk, P. B. Thompson; treasurer, John Redetzke; assessor, Peter Johnson; justice, Prudence Jacques; constables, John Hubla and Joe Hollick.

CORLISS TOWNSHIP.

The record concerning the organization of Corliss township states that it was "organized and baptised and named" on January 3, 1884. On this date O. F. Russell and twenty-seven others presented a petition to the board asking for the establishment of township 137, range 38, as a civil township to be known by the name of Adams. The petition carried the following names: O. F. Russell, Almon L. Young, Mike Shuda, C. W. Russell, Samuel G. Wallace, Thomas Peisdersku, Jakob Luks, John Paleiky, Jacob Lezygd, Bernhard Brosha, Frank Chidenski, Maik Dubstsi, George Raehe, Charles Raehe, Adam Siring, Patrick Collins, Fred Wetmore, Johann Bauzzh, Joseph Kontowski, Joan Bautsch, Albert T. Neuman, Alexander Collett, F. Siring, H. Wellman, M. H. Mille, John Gavin, Mat Slattery and George Gavin. (Many of the names on this petition were written with a lead pencil and some of them were nearly impossible to decipher.)

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The board granted the request of the petitioners, but called the new township Corliss, in honor of E. E. Corliss, one of the earliest settlers of the county and now custodian of the State House at St. Paul. The name Adams could not be used for the reason that it had already been applied to another township in the state, a fact not known to the petitioners.

The first settlers in this township in many cases came from other parts of Otter Tail county, being drawn here on account of the cheapness of the land. The most enterprising of these early settlers were those who signed the petition for the organization of the township in 1884. This township has no urban centers and not even a townsite has ever been platted within its limits. For some years a postoffice by the name of Woodland, located in section 3, was maintained but since the introduction of the rural free delivery it has been discontinued. No railroad reaches this part of the coutny. The nearest trading center is to be found at Perham.

Topographically this township presents no unusual features and for the most part its entire area is susceptible of cultivation. One lake only is entirely within the limits of the township, although there are four lakes which are on the township lines, namely, Little Pine, Big Pine, Bear and Edna.

Indian lake, the one lying wholly within the township, was formerly more than twice its present size, extending to the north for at least a mile through sections 8 and 5. Another vanished lake is found in sections 11 and 14. Practically the whole township is within the basin of the Red river. Three streams of considerable size drain in the general direction of Big Pine lake through which Red river flows. The largest of these three streams is Toad river, which rises in Becker county and flows in a southerly direction near the line between Corliss and Gorman townships.

Corliss township has one church, which is located in the western part of section 114. There is a cemetery adjoining the church while another burial ground is found in the northeastern corner of section 35. On the banks of Toad river in the western part of section 29 a grist-mill has been operated for many years. A saw-mill located in the northern part of section 2 has done a flourishing business for many years.

Some idea of the nationality of the people of this township may be gained from a glance at some of the landowners whose names are taken from the 1912 atlas of the county. They follow: Palubicki, Czopienski, Schatschneider, Eiswoldt, Pancratz; Kantowski, Sczygel, Rekowski, Lamski, Dulski, Shibitzski, Ziolkowski, Henningson, Foerstner and plain John Schmidt.

The present township officers are as follow: Supervisors, J. Stoldt, William Schmidt and Herman Rosen; clerk, C. A. Weigelt; treasurer, John

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Fiedler; assessor, John Fiedler; justices, Sam G. Wallace and William Ebeling; constables, Emil Mieschke and Henry Meier.

BLOWERS TOWNSHIP.

The township of Blowers (township 136, range 36) was created by the commissioners on March 20, 1884, and the first election was set for April 9, at the house of George Sheets. The petitioners had asked, or rather "prayed" as the petition states, that the new township be called Freedom, but this was refused on the ground that there was another township by the same name in the state. The commissioners named it in honor of A. S. Blowers, one of the prominent citizens of the early history of the county, and a member of the board of commissioners for many years.

This is one of the few townships in the county without a lake of any kind. The northern portion of the township is drained by Hay creek, a tributary of Red Eye river, while the southern portion falls within the watershed of Leaf river. The township is about equally divided between the two watersheds, and so well distributed are the branches of the two rivers that every portion of the township is easily drained. Blowers contains fine farming land and is settled with thrifty farmers who are fast bringing it to the front as one of the leading agricultural sections of the county.

This township was one of the last to be organized in the county, only two others—Orwell and Dead Lake—being organized later. This was due to a multiplicity of reasons, one of the chief being its remoteness from the county seat. It is seventy miles from the northeastern part of the township to the city of Fergus Falls and at least twelve miles from a trading center of any size. For many years a postoffice by the name of Blowers was maintained, but it was discontinued many years ago and the township is now served by the rural free delivery. There has never been a town site platted within the limits of the township; neither has there ever been a church in the township, although there is a cemetery in the northern part of section 1. A majority of the population are of German descent and with their usual thrift and well directed efforts they have made fine homes for themselves.

The present township officers are as follow: Supervisors, O. P. Jacobson, Martin Bengtson and E. Laine; clerk, Emil Hietala; treasurer, F. M. Windels; assessor, John O. Tolppi; justices, William Lee and H. Savela; constables, Gust Kyrola and Charles Bjorkland.

ORWELL TOWNSHIP

The township of Orwell was organized on July 27, 1886, by the county commissioners under the name of Liberty. For many years prior to its organ-

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ization as a separate township it had been known as West Buse, and it is so called in the petition of the citizens asking for its establishment as a civil township. The petitioners asked that the township be called either Huron or Ridgway, but "the commissioners selected the name of Liberty for the organized township, as it seemed to them that the voters of the township did not quite agree on any name of their own selection." The first election was at the school house on section 22, on Saturday, August 14, 1886. When the name of the new township was reported to the state auditor the latter official, in a letter dated August 7, 1886, reported back to the county auditor that the name Liberty was rejected on the ground that a township of this name already existed in the state. Thereupon the commissioners on November 3, 1886, ordered the name changed to Orwell.

The following qualified voters signed the petition for the establishment of Orwell township: Edwin M. Wright, William Winter, Lars Ouse, D. Burrows, W. P. Colvert, J. Wellborn, Charles Russell, Thomas Carem, Charles B. Soule, John Woodfuff, M. P. Burrows, T. B. Ortendorf, Karl Heidgeken, H. Eikens, A. Svein, Charles Jackson, A. Lunde, Nils Petterson, Simon Olsen, S. Helander, James Knowles, S. J. Hylander W. W. Randolph, Olaf Engetriom and Peter Petterson.

Orwell was next to the last township organized in Otter Tail county, a fact due to the swampiness of the township. Red river runs through the township from east to west through sections 25, 26, 34, 28, 29, 32, 30 and 31, leaving the township and county near the line dividing sections 30 and 31. Rush lake is the only body of water of any considerable size, although there are several other small lakes within its limits. The landowners in 1880, as taken from the tax duplicate of that year, included E. W. Dewey, Eustace Cummings, J. A. Bell, E. S. Allen, N. P. Clark, B. B. Parsons, William Russell, E. P. Brainard, J. G. Smith, D. Stewart, W. H. Potter, F. S. Burnham, C. Tower, D. S. Wemple, Addison Hilton, John Nelson, L. Sherat, F. W. Woodworth, J. M. Scott, S. Garland, W. J. Van Dyke, William Elliott, William Taylor, L. Lathrop, David Hume, A. M. Ridgway, H. C. Menshing, T. J. Wiley, Fannie S. Burnham, A. Hennington, B. B. Parsons, John Larson, F. M. Rose, William Ridgway, Nels Holmgren, M. C. Davis, W. H. Bradford, P. McMaster, J. H. Grass, Lawrence Brainard, J. H. Holmes, A. Holes, P. O. Ryden, A. C. Vanderburg, William Kingston, H. Roberts, F. B. Van Hoesen, A. E. Wentworth, W. R. Lewis, C. F. Davis, Frank A. Gilmore, Fred Winter and James Knowles. The largest land owner was the St. Paul, Minneapolis and Manitoba railroad. It must not be understood that all of these taxpayers lived in the township at the time, since it is certain that only a few of them lived on the land they owned.

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There has never been a village platted within the limits of the township and it has never even had a postoffice.

The present township officers are as follow: Supervisors, John Gander John Westerberg and Frank Noyes; clerk, B. R. Scott; treasurer, E. J. Scott; assessor, Fred Veit; justices, J. J. Martin and John Albright; constable, Fred Noyes.

DEAD LAKE TOWNSHIP

The last of the sixty-two townships to be organized in Otter Tail county was Dead Lake, which, for many years prior to its establishment as a civil township on March 24, 1897, had been attached to Perham for all township purposes. On the above date Henry Eaton and twenty-five other legal voters living in congressional township 135, range 40, petitioned the commissioners for the organization of the said territory as a civil township to be known as Dead Lake. The first election was held on the 10th of the following month at the school house in district No. 239 in section 16.

The petition bore the signatures of the following voters: Henry Eaton, James L. Richards, T. J. Elwess, N. J. Batton, T. A. Sampher, J. L. Bullock, J. D. Hitz, Parker Smith, George Bugbee, Calvin Comstock, Benjamin Thereault J. B. Batton, James L. Keith, H. Helms, J. H. Fairchild, P. L. Bundy, Ansel Eaton, C. O. Simmons, C. S. Burnett, A. H. Helms, V. H. Miller, L. W. Hites, G. P. Eaton, A. S. Roberts, Amos McIntyre and L. W. Eaton.

Dead Lake township has two large lakes, Dead and Marion. Dead lake spreads out all over the southwestern part of the township and stretches across the township from east to west. It covers at least seven sections of land. This township is the most thinly settled of any in the county, but within the past few years a great improvement has been made in the general appearance of conditions in the township.

The only platted site in the township is known as Yaquina Bay, which is located in section 8 on the extreme northern shore of Dead lake. It was platted in the fall of 1910 and recorded in the office of the register of deeds on November 23rd of that year. The proprietors were S. M. and Carrie Suffron. Although this township has not had a postoffice for some yeasr, there was once a representative of "Uncle Sam" stationed at a place called Redington, at least such a place is listed in old postal guides. There is not a church, not a mill of any kind and no villages to distract the attention of the wayfarer as he journeys through this township.

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CHAPTER XVI.

TRANSPORTATION.

HIGHWAYS.

The last report of the state commissioner of highways shows about ninety-two thousand miles of established highways in the state of Minnesota, exclusive of roads and streets in cities and incorporated villages. Of the mileage, approximately ninety per cent, or eighty thousand miles, are common earth roads, about ten thousand miles of the latter mileage being wholly or partly surfaced with gravel, sand, clay or vegetable loam. When there is taken into consideration the great wealth of the state and the available road-making material, this showing is anything but creditable to a state which boasts of being one of the great states of the Union. Many of the roads in the interior part of the state are but little, if any, better than the Indian trails which they have supplanted. What is needed is intelligent, well-directed methods of road construction, and until such a change is brought into use the farmers will continue to haul their grain to market in four-horse instead of two-horse wagons. Minnesota now has a highway commission and a step in the right direction has already been made. More money is being made available every year and the future is largely in the hands of the respective communities of the state. The old pathmasters of the seventies, with their haphazard methods of repairing and building roads, are giving way to a corps of skilled engineers, who are able to transform an Indian trail into a boulevard and a mud-beclogged path into a highway which rivals the Appian Way of the ancient Romans.

An interesting sidelight on the troubles of roadmaking in the early history of the county is disclosed by a letter which was written more than thirty years ago and filed with the commissioners' records. The sheet enclosing the letter bears the following inscription: "A sorrowful tale of grievance caused by the untamed denizens of the backwoods in the blessed town of Woodside by an honest taxpayer. Origen (al) Bates."

The "tale" is reproduced verbatim, no change being made in spelling, punctuation or grammar. The "tale" follows:

"Woodside July the 14 1883

"Town 132 Range 36 Road District no 2 complaint made by Origen Bates a tax payer in said road destrict to the county comisionrs of the proceedings of the town board and claim their proceedings ilegal and ruination to the raod destrict and that they are liable to be arested for misdemeanure in their office there hasent ben road work an nough don for the last 5 years through the

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path master to be worth as much as their bill last year there was a path master apointed and then they notified him not to do eny work till they told him wee to do the work they did not let him no where to do the work till it was to late to do the work then he resined then they apointed a thing in his place to get it off ove their hands and last winter the chairman told John Pease to go and build forty six rods of cordaroy at one dollar a rod without eny contract and then the board in the spring reviewed Said cordroy and excepted and said it was a nice Job when it was perfect worthless and no teams can cross it and paid the money for such work and this Spring after there had ben 2 path masters apointed and no one to take it I thought we had got to have roads although it seamed most impossible for me to leve my business and tend to the matter but as a tax payer to See the business done properly I volenteered to take it they apointed me I proceded to do one Job then the town bord and clerk picked a fuss with me and the bord refused to give me a order and I made up my mind that I would go through with the buisness all though I was hard up I proceded to review the roads acording to law and I found them in a retched condision I found one place were there was a little bridge broke down and one of my neighborsss cows had fell through crossing it and broke her back I notified the people out and procured the plank then the town board Served a notice on me to Stop work till I settled with the town then the fuss with Steve Odmels the town clerk and the board detained me 4 days they wasent willing to pay me for the time I spent on the road and bound to jangle and quarrel with me I was obliged to resine at this treatment and delay they havent procured no path master as yet as we no of no honest man will take it they way they serve them I request you amedatly to come to See me and See the roads and investigate the matter and deal with Such Supervisors according to law although they claim that you have no power over them do this ameadatly and oblige Origen Bates."

As far as the commissioners' records disclose, no action was taken on this letter "amedatly" or otherwise.

RIVER TRANSPORTATION.

With the Red river running through the county, it is easy to understand why there was considerable river transportation before the advent of highways and railroads. The rapids in the river within the limits of Fergus Falls were so precipitate that transhipment was necessary. Apropos of river navigation in Otter Tail county, the following article from the *Fergus Falls Weekly Journal*, July 31, 1873, will be of interest:

RED RIVER NAVIGABLE.

"Numerous fleet boats have passed down Red river all the way from Otter Tail City to Fergus and from below the falls to Fort Gary without

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difficulty. Some have been run over the falls, but this experiment has always been hazardous.

"The earliest record of navigation at this point is that of David Dale Owen, United States geologist, who passed down the river from Otter Tail lake to Pembina in 1848, with a couple of French half-breed companions.

"He tells us in his report that as he was proceeding leisurely down the river, all unconscious of any rapids or any falls, a sudden bend in the river (just where the upper bridge now is) brought them so near the falls that they could not gain the shore, but were drawn over the rapids by the swift current. The boat capsized and a very wet party was the result. Provisions, mathematical instruments and outfit generally were watersoaked. This accident necessitated an encampment on the town site of Fergus, and as the geologist probably foresaw a city here, he thought it his duty to fix the latitude for the place; so when his instruments were dried he made observation and reckoned the latitude of the future city to be forty-six degrees thirteen minutes and thirty-four seconds."

STATE AID FOR ROADS AND BRIDGES.

The first act of the state Legislature appropriating money for roads or bridges in Otter Tail county was passed March 6, 1883. In that year four separate acts were passed and specific appropriations were made in each case. The substance of these four acts, all of which were passed on the same day (March 6, 1883), is as follows: First—An appropriation of twenty-one hundred dollars for a bridge across the south fork of Wing river in township 132, range 37, at a point where the Parkers Prairie and Henning roads crossed. This bridge was to be constructed under the direction of A. Beardsley, John A. Hawkinson and Robert Barker. Second—An appropriation of two hundred and fifty dollars for a bridge over the Pelican river. Third—An appropriation of eight hundred dollars for a bridge over Red river at Fergus Falls, the same to be built under the direction of the city council. Fourth—An appropriation of four hundred dollars for a bridge over Red Eye river. The Legislature of 1885 passed a comprehensive internal improvement bill on March 9 (Special Laws, 1885, pp. 196-232) and under Title A 7 (pp. 224-225) is given a list of the bridges of Otter Tail county which received aid. To quote from the act: "Section 1—That the sum of fifteen hundred dollars is hereby appropriated out of any moneys which shall come into the treasury belonging to said fund, not already appropriated, for the purpose hereinafter mentioned, the said sum to be expended as follows:

"First—Three hundred dollars to aid in building a bridge across the Otter Tail river, above Otter Tail lake, between lot 7 and 8 of section 4, township 134, range 39, in said county of Otter Tail, and said bridge, when

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constructed, shall be kept in repair by said township, and be forever free from toll.

"Second—Two hundred dollars to aid in building two bridges and approaches thereto, across Leaf river, as follows: One bridge in the town of Deer Creek, where the Parkers Prairie and the New York Mills county road crosses Leaf river, near the center of section 16 in said town, in Otter Tail county.

"Third—Two hundred dollars to aid in building a bridge and approaches thereto, across Leaf river, at the outlet of Lake Inman, on the county road, between Wadena and Henning, near the line between the towns of Henning and Inman, all of said bridge and approaches being in the county of Otter Tail.

"Fourth—Three hundred dollars to aid in building and improving a road across Leaf Lake bottom, between sections 17 and 18 in the town of Deer Creek in county of Otter Tail.

"Fifth—Five hundred dollars to aid the city of Fergus Falls in Otter Tail county in grading Union avenue to and through state addition to Fergus Falls, between Rose and Beach avenues.

"Section 2—That the bridges mentioned in subdivisions one, two and three of section one shall be built under the direction of the county commissioners of Otter Tail county; the road mentioned in subdivision four of section one shall be built under the direction of the supervisors of the street commissioner of the said city of Fergus Falls, Otter Tail county, Minnesota.

"Section 3—That Homer Crocker, K. Peterson and O. C. Chase, all of Otter Tail county, Minnesota, are hereby appointed a committee on the part of the state to view said bridges, road and avenue mentioned in said subdivisions one, two, three, four and five, of section one, when said bridges and road are completed and the grading done on said Union avenue, and to examine all contracts, vouchers and accounts respecting the said bridges, road and avenue, and to ascertain and fix the cost of building said bridges and road and of grading said Union avenue, and to make a report of such cost to the state auditor.

"Section 4—Upon the receipt of said report by the state auditor, he shall, upon demand of the county treasurer of Otter Tail county, draw his order in favor of said county treasurer, on the state treasurer, for money belonging to said fund for the cost of said bridges, road and avenue, as reported by said committee, and not to exceed the sum of fifteen hundred dollars, and the state treasurer shall pay over such money to the county treasurer of said county, upon said order, and such money shall be disbursed by said county treasurer, upon the order of said committee above mentioned, in payment of the cost of said bridges, road and said Union avenue."

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LEGISLATIVE ACT OF 1897.

Other acts were passed from time to time extending aid to the county, but it was not until April 9, 1897, that any considerable appropriation was made in any one year. On this date a comprehensive act (Chapter 102, Minnesota Laws, 1897) made seven separate appropriations for roads and bridges in Otter Tail county. Tabulated, this act may be summed up as follows:

1. $25 for road in Compton and Bluffton townships.
2. $50 for bridge over Bear creek; similar amount for bridge over Wolf creek.
3. $150 for road in Nidaros, Folden and Effington townships.
4. $150 for bridge over Toad river on line between Otter Tail and Becker counties.
5. $100 for bridge over Red river in Buse township (section 6).
6. $75 for ditch opening Lakes Anna, Dagmar and Fish.
7. $300 for bridge over Pelican river in Erhards Grove township (section 4).

PRESENT ROAD CONDITIONS.

Otter Tail county, with its land area of two thousand thirty-nine square miles, has an estimated mileage of roads totalling three thousand miles. Of this total, the last report (January 1, 1915) gives only two hundred miles as being improved and this does not mean that all of this mileage is graveled. Much of this so-called improved mileage is only surfaced with clay, which, although it is a decided improvement over a road not so treated, yet falls short of being an improved road at all times of the year. When it is taken into consideration that the county had an assessed valuation of $14,047,008 in 1914, it may be seen that it has not been because of the poverty of the county that no more miles of improved roads have been built. The 1910 census gave the county a population of 46,036 and this has increased until it has passed the 50,000 mark. Averaging the valuation and population of the county, it shows that for each mile of road there are .68 square miles of area, a valuation of $4,682 and a population of 15.3 persons. So much for valuation, population and actual road mileage in the county.

A study of roadmaking in Otter Tail county shows that the topography is such that it takes more than the usual amount to construct highways. A glance at the map of the county discloses the fact that it is thickly dotted with lakes, something over fifteen hundred being large enough to be dignified with names, and where such a large number of lakes abound there are certain to be long stretches of low, swampy ground. The commissioners' records are full of petitions for corduroy roads and bridges and thirty and forty years ago there were literally miles of fine timber laid across sloughs in various parts

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of the county. The corduroy has disappeared, along with the pioneers who made it, but the bridges, like the poor, will always be found in Otter Tail county. The last report of the county engineer shows that there are three hundred and fifty bridges in the county ten feet or more in length. The money spent in building the five bridges across Red river in Fergus Falls would pave several blocks, and in explaining the reason why the county seat and many villages of the county have poor streets, it must be remembered that if they did not have to put money into bridges there would be much better streets. The farmer in the rural districts can struggle through a few feet of mud, but when it comes to driving his team through ten feet of water it is a much different proposition.

Fortunately, the county has an abundance of gravel and clay for road-making purposes, although it is not evenly distributed over the county. Around the village of Dalton, northeast and west of the county seat, and in a few other places in the county road surfacing material is not abundant. The village of Perham is compelled to haul clay a distance of three miles, but few places in the county are at a greater distance from an available supply of good gravel or sand. The state took up the building of roads in earnest in 1914 and now has fund which is being distributed to the counties of the state. Last year the state spent the immense sum of $2,862,995.96 for road and culvert work in the various counties and, in addition, paid out $323,111.27 for maintenance. At this point it seems pertinent to briefly summarize what experts have estimated as the cost of a "good road."

It should be said at the outset that these figures can be but averages, since conditions vary so widely that roads in one county may cost twice as much as in another, and roads in the same county may show as much variance in cost of construction. The character of the roadbed to begin with, the proximity of roadmaking material, the value of the land through which the road is to be built and the density of the population are factors which must be taken into consideration when the cost is figured. The experts employed by the state estimate the average cost of grading as $1,243.03 per mile, $236.00 per mile for blade grader work, with a general average of $830.00 per mile for dirt road construction. The average cost of gravelling on state roads is $831.70 per mile, and this means that an average of 1,000 cubic yards of gravel is used to the mile. The average cost of maintenance was $44.67 per mile and ranged from $7.77 in Cottonwood county to $280.65 in Ramsey county.

In 1914 Otter Tail county spent $24,106 for construction of highways, the state furnishing $14,759.40 of the amount. Of the maintenance cost of $6,143.97, the state furnished $3,500. The following table shows the

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total amount paid out for construction, the totals representing both the amounts paid by the county and the state:

Clearing and grubbing, 7.75 acres	$ 420.00
Grading, 22.37 miles	17,456.50
Turnpiking, 1.25 miles	399.00
Gravelling, 1.76 miles	2,829.00
Clay surfacing, 2.67 miles	1,151.50
Corrugated metal culverts, 68 in number	1,043.00
Steel bridge, thirty feet long	1,300.00

The work in Otter Tail county was all done under the direction of Martin Aalberg, the district engineer, a man of several years' experience and well qualified for the position which he holds.

The county owns five sets of road tools, each set consisting of a twenty-seven-hundred-pound grader, five No. 2 wheel scrapers, four drag scrapers (slushers) and one road plow. In addition, each township has its own roadmaking tools. As a result of concentrated work on the roads of the county within the past few years, the following roads may be considered as the best in the county: The road three miles southwest of the village of Pelican Rapids on state road No. 2 along the Pelican river; another stretch on the same road three miles southwest of Erhard; the road between the villages of Clitherall and Battle Lake along the shores of Lake Clitherall; the road leading east from Fergus Falls toward Battle Lake (known as road No. 5); the road leading out of the village of Battle Lake toward Henning; five miles of road in the northwestern part of Aurdal township.

It is the conclusion of Martin Aalberg, the district engineer, that the people of the county are well satisfied with the work on the state roads. In many of the townships people do not seem to like the paying of their road taxes in money, preferring to work them out in the old way. However, in arguing this point, most fair-minded citizens agree that the new law is better than the old; that is, provided that the township board does its full duty and appoints a man for road builder who really understands how to make roads. It is safe to say that within the next few years the roads of the county will show the effects of the new law and that better roads will be the result.

The state highway commission during the first week in March, 1916, apportioned one million five hundred thousand dollars road and bridge funds among the counties of this state. Of this immense sum, Otter Tail county was given twenty thousand dollars, which was not as much as the county expected to receive. At their January meeting the county commissioners made a provisional appropriation of thirty thousand dollars to be expended on the roads during 1916, provided, however, that the state highway com-

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mission apportioned to the county an equal amount. The county had hardly expected to get the full thirty thousand dolars, but did think that the state commission would grant them twenty-five thousand dollars. The largest appropriation any county in the state received was thirty-five thousand dollars, and this amount was given to each of three counties, Hennepin, Ramsey and St. Louis. Each county in the state receives about two and a third per cent. of the total funds, the law providing that not more than three per cent. shall go to any one county. It is further provided that each county shall receive at least one per cent. of the amount distributed, so that no county receives less than fifteen thousand dollars for 1916. The great majority of the counties of this state received this minimum amount, only twenty-four out of the eighty-three receiving amounts in excess of this figure, and eleven of the total number of counties in the state receiving more than Otter Tail county.

At the time this volume went to press the commissioners had not decided on how the twenty thousand dollars was to be prorated among the various townships of the county. At their meeting the first week in March they selected about twenty different roads wihch were to receive aid from the state fund. The largest amount appropriated for any one township was three thousand dollars, this amount being set aside for use in Dane Prairie.

RAILROADS IN OTTER TAIL COUNTY.

The railroad in Otter Tail county is an integral part of the history life and development of the county. Without the railroad Otter Tail county would not be the county it is today by several thousand people; had the building of the road through the county in 1871 been postponed a decade, the actual development of the county would have been postponed for that many years. Again, the building of the line through Fergus Falls in 1879 gave the city an impetus which started it on the road to its present prosperity. The great majority of the people of this county have been brought here by the railroad. It is safe to say that the railroad has been the means of making the county what it is today, and yet there are some who fail to realize the incalculable benefit which it has been to the county.

Three companies have lines running through Otter Tail county, each company running its trains from St. Paul, on the east, to Puget Sound, on the west. Two of these lines, the Northern Pacific and the Great Northern, were built through the county in the seventies, while the other line, the Saulte Ste. Marie, known as the Soo line, was not built through the county until 1901. The history of the first two railroads is closely interwoven with the early history of the county. During the decade, 1870-80, there was hardly a year that the railroad question was not a live issue in Otter Tail county, and it was not until after the first train came into Fergus Falls, in the fall of 1879, that

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the question became settled as far as the county seat was concerned. Before taking up the history of the railroads of the county, it is necessary to review briefly the history of railroads in Minnesota.

As in other western territories and states, Minnesota was dependent upon Congress for aid in the construction of railroads and, fortunately for the future development of the country, Congress was disposed to be very generous with the public domain. The great railroad companies of the West had their inception in the East, and ordinarily it was Eastern capital and brains, added to Western land and energy, which built the railroads from the Mississippi westward to the Rocky mountains and the Pacific coast. Not unfrequently there were unscrupulous capitalists who engaged in promoting railroads in the western territories for the sole purpose of fleecing the public. These pseudo-empire builders even went so far as to use their influence, backed by money, in the halls of Congress in efforts to get legislation in their interest.

An instance of this kind is concerned with a bill introduced in Congress in 1854, making a grant of Minnesota land for the construction of a road from St. Paul to Lake Superior. This bill gave the company twenty sections per mile for building it. While the bill was in the hands of the enrolling committee, some fraudulent changes were made in its provisions in interest of the construction company. As result of this discovery, after the bill had passed both houses and was in the hands of the President, it was recalled by the House of Representatives which had originated the bill, the fraudulent passage was pointed out and further consideration of the bill was indefinitely postponed. As a further consequence, railroad enterprises in this state received a check from which they did not recover for some time.

The first statute of Congress pertaining to railroads in Minnesota was passed March 3, 1857, (U. S. Statutes at Large, Vol. II, 195-196), under the title of "An act making a grant of land to the Territory of Minnesota, in alternate sections, to aid in the construction of certain railroads in said territory." This statute furnished the basis for the first railroad in Minnesota and with subsequent acts of Congress made it possible to construct the great trunk lines through the state. The act of 1858 provided the initial means for the railroad which was to run from the eastern boundary of the territory, on the St. Croix river, westward through St. Paul to the western boundary of the state, with a branch running from St. Anthony (now the eastern part of Minneapolis) northward to the navigable waters of the Red river of the North at such a point as the Legislature might afterwards designate. The act further sets aside six square miles for each mile of the road completed within a specified time, "six sections in width on each side of each said road and branches."

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This act placed in the hands of Minnesota, still a territory, a magnificent grant of nearly nine million acres to aid in the construction of the several projected trunk lines through her bounds. The roads specified were as follow: From Stillwater, on the Mississippi, by way of St. Paul and St. Anthony Falls, to a point at the foot of Big Stone lake and the mouth of the Sioux Wood river, with a branch by way of St. Cloud and Crow Wing to the navigable waters of the Red river of the North. Several others roads that had been projected were included in the provisions of the grant.

An extra session of the territorial Legislature of Minnesota was called as soon as the governor received news from Washington of the passage of the bill of March 3, 1857. The Legislature convened in May, 1857, to accept the grant with the provisions as set forth by Congress, and to devise means and lay plans to build some of the proposed roads. The act of May 21, 1857, was the first attempt on the part of the state to construct a railroad within its limits. The general nature of the act is indicated by its title—"To execute the trust created by the act of Congress entitled 'An act making a grant of land to the Territory of Minnesota in alternate sections to aid in the construction of certain railroads in said territory,' and granting certain lands to companies therein named." Work was begun in 1857 on a part of the right of way between St. Paul and St. Anthony, but before any rails were laid all work was suspended. The financial panic of 1857, which was sweeping over the country, stopped the work on the little road, and the state was compelled to wait for five years before any more work was done in railroad construction within its limits.

The next step in the railroad history of the state is marked by the legislative act of March 3, 1861. This act was to aid in the construction of the Minnesota & St. Paul railroad, which company, by the way, was practically the same as the first one organized, the Minnesota & Pacific railroad. The act specifically provided that the state would release the company from all liens or claims held against it by the state upon condition that the company "shall commence the construction of that portion of said road or branch extending from St. Paul to St. Cloud and Sauk Rapids on or before the first day of July next, and put the same into operation, fully equipped for business, within eighteen months thereafter."

Following the action of the Minnesota Legislature, Congress again comes to the aid of the state.

On July 12, 1862, Congress passed a resolution authorizing the state of Minnesota to change the line of certain branch railroads in the state. An act of the territorial Legislature (May 22, 1857), was the first step on the part of the territory to take advantage of the federal statute of March 3, 1857. On this latter date the Legislature chartered the first railroad in the territory

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under the title of the Minnesota and Pacific Railroad. As soon as this charter was granted work was begun on the road, but financial reverses stopped all work before a single rail was laid and further progress in railroad construction was delayed until 1862. The resolution of Congress, adopted July 12, 1862, was followed by action on the part of the state Legislature which lead to the reopening of work on the road which had been abandoned in 1857. The resolution gave the state the right to change the route of the road and authorized a branch to Lake Superior, Congress again granting the state "the alternate sections within the six-mile limits of such new branch line of route as the authorities of the state may designate." It might be said in this connection that the new charter granted in 1862 to the St. Paul & Pacific Company, practically the same company organized in 1857 as the Minnesota & Pacific Railroad, was followed by active work on the part of the promoters. The graded portion between St. Paul and St. Anthony was completed the same year, iron rails were laid under the supervision of E. F. Drake, and on June 28, 1862, the first locomotive in Minnesota, named the "William Crooks," (so called in honor of the chief engineer of the road), ran over the completed line between St. Paul and St. Anthony. But once more all work was suspended and for three years the question of railroad extension lay dormant.

The experience of the men in building railroads in the state up to 1862 had shown them that it was going to be very difficult to sell a sufficient amount of land to extend the road beyond St. Anthony (Minneapolis). The Civil War stopped all work on railroads throughout the United States except on those lines directly connected with the prosecution of the war. With the close of that struggle and the subsequent rapid immigration into the state of Minnesota, the men behind the St. Paul & Pacific tried for the third time to get their road started across the state. For the third time Congress was appealed to for assistance and for the third time that body responded in a generous manner. The federal act of March 3, 1865, increased the land grant to railroads in Minnesota to "ten sections per mile on each side of said railroad and branches," but with the proviso, "That the land to be so located shall in no case be further than twenty miles from the lines of such roads and branches." This generous increase in the land grant, together with the rapid influx of settlers to those parts of the state where it was proposed to build railroads, gave the necessary impetus to railroad construction. By the fall of 1871 the St. Paul & Pacific had constructed a line from Minneapolis west and north through Wilmar, Benson and Morris to Breckenridge, a distance of two hundred fifteen miles. The Northern Pacific railroad by the same year (1871) had built from Duluth to Moorhead westward on their projected line to Puget Sound. This was the first line to reach Otter Tail county and the road which

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was projected through Otter Tail City, but which was finally run about fifteen miles to the northeast of the county seat.

Different reasons have been given for the failure of the Northern Pacific to pass through Otter Tail City. There was no paper published in the county at the time the road was being built through it, and therefore no contemporary account of local conditions has been preserved. Fortunately, a number of men are still living who passed through the fight of the seventies when efforts were being made to induce the road to pass through the county seat. There seems to be a consensus of opinion on two points, that the railroad company first planned to run the road through Otter Tail City, and secondly that their failure to do so was due, more than anything else, to refusal of one Thomas Cathcart, a large land owner in the vicinity of Otter Tail City, to give the necessary right of way and other concessions. There can be no question but that the company originally contemplated running their line through Otter Tail City. In the summer of 1870 there was a construction camp in the county seat, and for a short time, not more than three months, the people of the "city" were confident that the projected road was going to strike them. Whatever the cause may be for the road being finally placed where it now is, there can be no question that the failure of Otter Tail City to secure it was immediately followed by agitation to remove the county seat to Fergus Falls.

While the Northern Pacific failed to touch Otter Tail City, the residents of the county seat still had hopes of a railroad. The act of Congress of March 3, 1871, has a direct bearing on the railroad history of Otter Tail county. This act permitted the St. Paul & Pacific to alter its branch line so that instead of having to build a line from Crow Wing to St. Vincent and from St. Cloud to Lake Superior, it could construct a line from Crow Wing to Brainerd to connect with the Northern Pacific at the latter point, and from St. Cloud "to a point of intersection with the line of the original grant at or near Otter Tail or Rush Lake, so as to form a more direct line to St. Vincent."

It was this latter provision which brought the St. Paul & Pacific through Fergus Falls, although the people of Otter Tail City at first contended that the provision would compel the company to build through their place. The secretary of the interior ruled, however, that the railroad company would be complying with the terms of its grant if it built the road through Fergus Falls, instead of Otter Tail City; that such a road would be "at or near Otter Tail or Rush Lake." This information reached Otter Tail county in January, 1872, and within a month from that time a bill had been introduced in the Legislature to remove the county seat from Otter Tail City to Fergus Falls. Hon. E. E. Corliss, now custodian of the state capitol, and at that time a member of the Legislature, introduced the bill and it was promptly passed. It is not too much to say that this action was the direct result of the announcement of the

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St. Paul & Pacific that it intended to run its line to the west of Otter Tail City and, in all probability, through or near Fergus Falls.

The period from 1872 to 1879 in the railroad history of Otter Tail county is filled with the efforts of the people of Fergus Falls to get a railroad. As soon as it was known that the St. Paul & Pacific did not have to go through Otter Tail City to comply with its grant, the people of Fergus Falls began to lay their plans to have the company build through the county seat. Early in 1871 the surveyors of the railroad company started to survey an extension of the St. Paul & Pacific from Alexandria through Otter Tail, Wilkin and Clay counties in order to intersect the Northern Pacific at or near the present Glyndon. As a matter of fact, surveying parties had been engaged since 1870 in trying to locate a route between St. Cloud and Moorhead, but it was not until early in 1872 that definite steps were taken by the St. Paul & Pacific to build the extension.

It is very probable that the inside story of the original extension as planned and partially graded will never be told. Accounts differ as to why the company finally decided to build the road south and west of Fergus Falls instead of going through the county seat. To the casual observer it would appear that there was every reason why the line should have gone through Fergus Falls, but the ways of railroad magnates in those days were past finding out. George C. Miles, of Conrad, Montana, who was in the surveying party which ran the road through the county in 1872, says that it was currently reported at that time that the road was placed where it was because of the influence of certain land owners in St. Cloud and Dayton who had land between those two places. As the road was originally projected from Alexandria to the Northern Pacific it entered Otter Tail county in Tumuli township, veered to the northwest, passing through Aastad, Buse, Orwell and Carlisle townships. It crossed the Red river a short distance below the present Otter Tail Power Company's dam and passed through sections 33, 29, 28, 18 and 7 in Carlisle township. The road was graded from Red river northwest until it left the county, the company expending at least eighteen thousand dollars on the grading in this county alone. There was also considerable grading between Dayton and Dalton to the south and east of Red river. The grade is still plainly to be seen and especially north of Red river where it is graded in many places as high as fourteen feet.

But in the summer of 1872 the panic came on and within a week all work was suspended. The road was then in operation as far north as Melrose. The newspapers of Fergus Falls are full of articles on the railroads from 1873 until the road finally reached the city in December, 1879.

On May 25, 1874, a large meeting of Fergus Falls citizens was held to consider the conditions and aspect of their railroad interests, especially con-

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cerning the St. Vincent branch. There seemed to be a feeling that a crisis in the development of their material interests had been reached. A full account of that meeting is reproduced from the *Fergus Falls Journal*:

"All realize the suffering condition of business from the want of railroad outlet. It seems apparent that the important interests of this whole section of country were being sacrificed to the selfish personal quarrel being waged between the factions known as the bondholders of the St. Paul & Pacific railroad, and the contractors, known as the DeGraff element. That between these two powerful interests the people who have been induced to settle in this county and made the dupes of the pledged building of the road, are being ground to powder, as between the upper and nether millstone."

A COMMITTEE PRESENTS RESOLUTIONS.

A committee composed of Doctor Goodale, Sam H. Nichols, J. W. Mason, O. S. King and A. J. Underwood, was appointed to draft resolutions expressive of the sentiment of the meeting. This committee reported the following preamble and resolutions, which, after a full discussion, were unanimously adopted:

Whereas, Five months of the present session of Congress have passed and it must be considered that the end of the session is rapidly approaching, and that it is morally certain that neither of the bills now before Congress for the extension of the time for the completion of the unfinished branches of the St. Paul & Pacific railroad can become a law by reason of a division of its friends, one part supporting a measure wholly in the interest of the bondholders, and the others supporting a measure wholly in the interests of the contractors claiming to be creditors.

And Whereas, The completion of these roads through the vast region of country which they are to traverse is of much more consequence to the people of this state, and especially to the inhabitants of the northern part thereof, than that any class of creditors, whether contractors or bondholders, should be allowed to mould legislation to their peculiar interest or purposes, and at the expense of those sections, the development and progress of which are not only retarded, but effectually prevented by the long and unjustifiable delay in the building of the roads. That the large and suffering communities who have been invited and enticed into the neighborhood of these roads by their location and promised construction, have some rights which deserve to be respected; that the construction of these roads as aided and secured by the land grants, was intended chiefly to subserve their interests and promote their welfare, and therefore cannot rightfully be subverted to objects of less public consideration.

And Whereas, The substantial interests of all parties concerned would be promoted by the speedy completion of these roads. Therefore,

Resolved, That neither class of creditors or claimants should be permitted longer to exclusively occupy the ground in its contest with the other, and that they should not be allowed longer to retard the necessary legislation, and thus indefinitely postpone the consummation of a great public enterprise.

Resolved, That we request our Legislature to secure the extension of the land grant to the trustees of the bondholders, with the following conditions:

First. That if the present company or its successors or assigns fail to fully construct and operate the lines by June, 1876, they shall forfeit their franchises to the

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unfinished portions thereof, and the state shall be empowered to confer the franchises and grant of the uncompleted portions upon another company or corporation.

Second, That the branch line from St. Cloud to St. Vincent shall be constructed and operated via Sauk Centre, Osakl, Alexandria, and Fergus Falls.

Third, That the road shall be constructed and in operation to Fergus Falls by December 1, 1874.

Fourth, That no lands shall be deeded to the company until both branches are fully completed and in operation.

Fifth. That all settlers who have entered upon and improved any part of said grant prior to September 1, 1872, in good faith, shall be protected in their claims, the same as if said grant had not been made, and other lands corresponding in value to be granted in lieu thereof.

It will be seen by these resolutions of the citizens of Fergus Falls in 1874 that the people of the village really felt that a crisis was at hand in regard to the expiration of the land grant of the St. Paul & Pacific. Added to any and all other obstacles in the path of the company was the lack of money to complete the work and the constant agitation on the part of the Fergus Falls people to compel the building of the road through the county seat.

The question reached a climax in the session of the Legislature which met in 1877. At that session the railroad company applied for an extension of their grant. This extension was granted upon condition that the road be built through Fergus Falls instead of through Dayton as originally planned and already partially graded. It seems proper in this connection to make mention of the men who were largely responsible for compelling the company to change their plans and build through Fergus Falls. While there were many men who had labored for several years to this same end, yet when the crisis came it was Henry G. Page, the senator from Otter Tail county and Knute Nelson, senator from Douglas county, who deserve the greatest amount of credit for the passage of the act of March 1, 1877. The part of this act which refers to Otter Tail county in general and to Fergus Falls in particular reads as follows:

"Section 6. The time for the completion of the uncompleted portions of the line of railroad extending from St. Cloud to St. Vincent, commonly known as the 'St. Vencent Branch of the St. Paul & Pacific Extension Lines,' is hereby extended as follows:

"From Melrose to Sauk Center, until July 1, 1878; from Sauk Center to Alexandria, until January 1, 1879; from Alexandria to Fergus Falls, and from Crookston to St. Vincent, until January 1, 1880; from Fergus Falls to Glyndon, until January 1, 1881."

The act of March 1, 1877, was amended by the succeeding Legislature, March 9, 1878, but no change was made in the time limit for the completion of the road from Melrose via Sauk Center, Alexandria, Fergus Falls and Glyndon to St. Vincent. The act of 1878 did provide, however, that "when that portion of said line of railroad extending from Alexandria by way of Evans-

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ville to Fergus Falls is fully completed, with the cars running thereon, then, and not before, the governor of the state may convey or certify to such company all the rest, residue and remainder of the lands granted by the United States to the state of Minnesota to aid in the construction of the said line of railroad."

With the passage of the act of March 1, 1877, Fergus Falls was finally assured of a railroad. The newspapers of the city during the next two years are full of railroad items and it is possible to trace the growth of the railroad week by week until the first train rolled into the city on December 2, 1879. The *Journal* in its issue of May 16, 1879, says "The contract for the construction of the railroad from Alexandria through Fergus Falls to Barnesville, about eighty miles, was let in St. Paul last week to Langdon, Harrison & Company, the lowest bidders. Hon. R. B. Langdon, of Minneapolis, and D. C. Shepard, of St. Paul, who are well known railroad men in this state, are members of this firm and have many friends in these parts. Advertisements are out for five hundred laborers and three hundred teams, and offers are made to sub-contractors."

One reason why the St. Paul & Pacific had ceased work on its roads in Minnesota was because it went into the hands of a receiver in 1872 and had been unable to get sufficient financial support to continue operations. During the period from 1872 to 1879 the receiver was operating the road in the interest of the bondholders. The road, of course, was not a paying investment at this time, and it was not a surprise when it was sold under a decree of foreclosure in May, 1879. Apropos of this sale, the *Journal* of May 30, 1879, has the following to say: "The purchasers of the St. Paul & Pacific railroad under the decree of the United States district court, met on the 23rd inst., and re-organized under the name of the St. Paul, Minneapolis & Manitoba Railway Company. The first board of directors consists of George Stephen, of Montreal, John S. Barnes, of New York, Donald S. Smith, of Winnipeg, and Norman W. Kittson, J. J. Hill, H. R. Biglow and R. B. Galusha, of St. Paul. The directors subsequently met and elected George Stephen for president of the company, Norman W. Kitson vice-president and Edward Sawyer, secretary and treasurer. James J. Hill was made general manager. It is generally known that the St. Paul & Pacific railroad has virtually passed into the hands of the bondholders by an amicable understanding and settlement with all the other parties in interest. Under an agreement between the parties a formal foreclosure and sale of the road is to take place, afterwards the new company will have plain sailing in the management of the largest and most important railroad system in the northwest."

Work on the road was pushed rapidly during the summer and fall of 1879

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and little else was talked of in Fergus Falls except railroad matters. The people looked forward with expectant hearts to the day when the whistle of the locomotive could be heard around the bend across the river. By September 12, 1879, regular passenger trains were running to Evansville and the people of Fergus Falls were assured that within two weeks a track would be laid inside of the township of Tumuli. In that township it was reported that work would be suspended for a time and the main force of workmen sent north of Fergus Falls to work from Barnesville south. The *Journal* reported on September 12 that "the cars will actually reach Fergus Falls first from the northwest. In that direction the grading has been let into small contracts and is being pushed rapidly. The piles are about all driven at the crossing of the Pelican."

The *Journal* was able to report in its issue of December 5, 1879, that "out of the million of clinchers that have been driven in St. Paul & Pacific rails, the last one needed to complete the Fergus Falls division was driven yesterday about six miles west of this town." What a feeling of exultation the readers of the paper must have felt when they read this item. For at least eight years they had been hoping that the day would come when the newspaper would chronicle this event, and now that it had actually happened the joy of the people of Fergus Falls knew no bounds. It was on Tuesday afternoon, between the hours of three and four, on December 2, 1879, that the first passenger coach crossed the river and stopped at Mill street. A number of the officials of the company were aboard and all were taken to the Occidental hotel, the "Kaddatz" of that time, and wined and dined by the happy citizens of the city. Later, the train passed westward a short distance and then returned to Fergus Falls. Regular passenger trains began running on Monday morning, December 8, 1879, according to the following schedule: Leave Fergus Falls, 6:30 a. m., arrive at St. Paul, 6:35 p. m.; leave St. Paul 7:00 a. m., arrive at Fergus Falls, 7:45 p. m. This shows that it took twelve hours and five minutes to go to St. Paul and forty minutes longer to make the return trip. The last schedule (1916) shows that the trip is now made in five hours. Mr. Ulmer was the first station agent and his temporary place of business was in a box car. The first station was on the east side of the river, about two blocks down the track from where it crossed the river. It remained there until the forepart of the eighties when it was moved to the Vine street crossing. This change was brought about through the influence of the Scotch interests, who were at that time building the Grand hotel and improving the western part of the city. It was moved to its present site, between Mill and Cascade streets, about 1900.

The Great Northern secured control of the St. Paul, Minneapolis & Manitoba on February 1, 1890, under a lease which was to extend for a period of nine hundred and ninety-nine years. The owners of the St. Paul,

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Minneapolis & Manitoba were the organizers of the Great Northern. It was felt that the corporate powers of the Manitoba company were lacking in scope desirable for the control of a large transportation system such as was planned by the stockholders in 1889. It was at this time that the system was planned to reach the Pacific coast and it was for the purpose of larger operations that the Great Northern Railway Company took over on February 1, 1890, all of the railways and appurtenant properties of the St. Paul, Minneapolis & Manitoba. It might be mentioned that the road was completed to the Pacific coast in 1893, the first road, by the way, to be built across the continent without government aid.

Something of the history of the Northern Pacific through Otter Tail county has already been given and it now remains to give an account of the branch of that road which was built from Wadena junction via Fergus Falls to Breckenridge and from Fergus Falls north to Pelican Rapids. The citizens of Fergus Falls during the decade from 1870 to 1880 were bending every effort to induce some railroad company to build a line through the city. While it was hoped that the St. Paul & Pacific, now the Great Northern, would change its route and build through the county seat, yet if this could not be brought about, they hoped to be able to induce the Northern Pacific to build westward from Wadena via Fergus Falls, Breckenridge and points west. George B. Wright was largely responsible for the ultimate building of this road. He labored for years to get this railroad built and his fertile pen was constantly employed in the columns of the local papers with great effect; his convincing arguments were directed to citizens of the county wherever he met them, in order to create a public sentiment favorable to county aid; he dogged the legislature for swamp land grants; he made journeys to the east to visit capitalists and railroad men; and with tireless energy he fathered this project through defeat and failure, in years of grasshopper ravages as well as those of prosperity; and just as his hopes were fairly realized and the consequent prosperity to this city and county was bursting upon us like a flood of light, he was suddenly called away—his life work ended.

Several elections were held in Otter Tail county in the seventies to vote bonds for the assistance of railroads. On May 24, 1876, such an election was held, the issue at this time being whether Otter Tail county should vote one hundred thousand dollars of bonds to the Northern Pacific to build a road from Wadena to Fergus Falls. An exciting campaign preceded the election and the result showed that the county was fairly well divided on the question. The vote stood seven hundred and ninety-five in favor of the issuance of the bonds to nine hundred and ninety against the proposition. The Perham and Pelican valley people were strongly opposed to the proposi-

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[illegible] proposed to [illegible] Pelican Rapids from Fergus Falls. A general [illegible] town- [illegible] railroads. Fur- [illegible] the county commissioners to call an elec- [illegible] the issuance of bonds for the road from [illegible] and from Fergus Falls to Pelican Rapids. This [illegible] hundred and fifty thousand dollars in [illegible] and especially so since on the same [illegible] the county voted on the question of giving the internal improvement [illegible] railroad bonds. The vote to issue the bonds was [illegible] hundred and seventy-two to eight [illegible] while the county voted nearly unanimously against [illegible] internal improvement lands.

It seemed now that the city was assured of connection with the Northern Pacific but it was not to come as soon as anticipated. The prevailing stringency of the money market and the caution of eastern capitalists made all efforts to build the road abortive. It was a sad day for Wright and his friends when the bonds which had been generously voted for the road were destroyed. Years were to pass before the question was revived, and during this time the St. Paul & Pacific reached Fergus Falls with its St. Vincent division. The third vote on this question was taken and the county voted two hundred thousand dollars for the proposed extension. Of this amount one hundred and fifty thousand dollars was for the Wadena-Breckenridge branch, known as the Duluth, Fergus Falls & Black Hills branch, and fifty thousand dollars for the Pelican Rapids division. It is the opinion of many that the branch line running north from Fergus Falls to Pelican Rapids cost the county, in principal and interest on bonds, over four hundred thousand dollars, as in all probability the road would have been built from Wadena junction to Breckenridge for business reasons without a bonus from the county.

Work was immediately begun on the road and on October 26, 1882, the road was completed from Wadena junction via Fergus Falls to Breckenridge and north to Pelican Rapids. On that date a special train bearing State Treasurer Kittleson, and other civil and railroad officials, together with a party of citizens and journalists, made a tour of inspection over the road. Immediately after this the state treasurer delivered the bonds to the company. Over eighty miles of the two branches is in Otter Tail county and with the opening of the road twelve railroad stations were installed along the line. The *Journal* in its issue of October 26, 1872, says that "the taxable valuation of the county has already been increased millions of dollars

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in consequence of the building of the road. The great central part of the county and the Pelican valley have been given markets for their immense crops of grain and produce; this road has already become our chief source of lumber supply, and the amount of wheat, flour and other articles of export that shall pass out to the markets of the world over its track, is beyond all computation. The wisdom of the project has been already proved a thousand times, and today the final completion and acceptance of this important enterprise, which had its origin in and owes its success to Fergus Falls."

At the present time the following stations are on the branch running from Wadena to Fergus Falls: Deer Creek, Henning, Vining, Clitherall, Battle Lake and Underwood. The Pelican Rapids division has two stations between Fergus Falls and Pelican Rapids, Elizabeth and Erhard.

The history of the road to Pelican Rapids contains an interesting feature which deserves mention. In 1880 when the Northern Pacific began building its branch from Fergus Falls north to Pelican Rapids, the St. Paul, Minnesota & Manitoba at once began to build a parallel line, branching off the main line at Carlisle, going to Elizabeth and thence north, paralleling the right of way of the Northern Pacific. The two construction crews worked side by side for some weeks and it seemed for a time that both companies would actually build branches into Pelican Rapids. However before either company laid any rails, a compromise was effected whereby the Great Northern bought out the Northern Pacific. The old grade of the abandoned road may still be seen from Carlisle to Elizabeth and from that village north to Pelican Rapids. Some of the piling was driven for the bridges and this may also be seen in some places today. This is another instance where thousands of dollars has been spent in Otter Tail county for a railroad which was never built. The other instance was the abandoned route of the St. Paul & Pacific which was planned to run through Dayton, and later changed in 1877 to run through Fergus Falls.

The decade from 1870 to 1880 was essentially a period of railroad legislation. Every Legislature was importuned to pass all kinds of acts relating to all kinds of railroads—narrow guage, broad guage and standard guage, etc. During this decade Otter Tail county became interested in the building of the Minnesota Northern railroad, a line which never got beyond the incorporated stage, but which was voted one hundred and fifty thousand dollars in bonds by the county. The act of February 15, 1877, provided that: "Each of the counties of Otter Tail, Wilkin, Becker and Wadena, and each of the several townships and villages in said counties, are hereby authorized to aid in the construction of the Minnesota Northern railroad, by creating and issuing to the Minnesota Northern Railroad company the bonds of such county, township or village, bearing interest at a rate not exceeding

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eight per cent. per annum, and the principal thereof payable in not exceeding twenty years from the date of issue thereof.

"The amount of bonds so issued, together with any unpaid indebtedness previously incurred in aid of railroads, shall in no case exceed ten per cent. of the assessed valuation of the property in the county, township or village issuing such bonds."

This act also provided that the question should be submitted to the people for a vote at an election called for that purpose, and that they should decide as to the amount of bonds issued. Otter Tail county decided to issue bonds to the amount of one hundred and fifty thousand dollars. The county voted them. They were printed, signed and delivered in escrow to the governor of the state to be delivered by him, when the conditions under which they were issued were complied with. The *Fergus Falls Journal* of February 1, 1879, says: "On Tuesday of last week Governor Pillsbury, Senator McCrea and Representative Anderson, assembled in the governor's office at St. Paul, and proceeded to destroy the one hundred and fifty thousand dollars of bonds issued by Otter Tail county to aid in building the Minnesota Northern railroad. The bonds were cancelled and will be sent home to be burned. The coupons were detached and burned up. And so all the discussion for and against the county bonds with all past hope of the railroad and fears of burdensome taxes exist only as the memory of a troubled dream." The board of commissioners of Otter Tail county completed the destruction of the Minnesota Northern railroad bonds at a special meeting held on March 19, 1879. The reason why this road through Fergus Falls never materialized was because the St. Paul & Pacific reached the city first. Fifteen days after the bill was passed relative to the Minnesota Northern, the Legislature passed the act compelling the St. Paul & Pacific to build through Fergus Falls or forfeit their land grant. The Otter Tail county people voted the Minnesota Northern bonds so as to provide for any possible contingency which might arise. They did not propose to miss an opportunity to get a railroad and if the St. Paul & Pacific had not gone through Fergus Falls then they would have had the Minnesota Northern with which to figure. However, as has been stated, the building of the St. Paul & Pacific through the county seat made it unnecessary to have any more dealings with the Minnesota Northern, and the bonds which the county had voted for that road and which were being held in escrow, were destroyed as has been described. One other act relative to Otter Tail county and the Minnesota Northern might be mentioned. This was the act of March 12, 1878, which provided for a grant of all the swamp lands, belonging to the state, in Otter Tail county, to aid in the construction of the railroad from Fergus Falls to the Northern Pacific railway. It was provided that, if any of the swamp lands have been sold or

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otherwise disposed of by the United States, or by the state, the amount so sold or disposed of shall be made up to said company from lands belonging to the state outside of said county. It was further provided, that said company shall at all times after acquiring said lands, offer the same for actual improvement at prices not exceeding two dollars per acre. The beneficiary of this grant of swamp lands was the Minnesota Northern railway, but since the company never materialized this act of March 12, 1878, never became operative.

One other railroad in the county remains to be noticed. This is the Minneapolis, St. Paul & Sault Ste. Marie Railroad Company, which was built through the county in 1901. It branched off the main line at Glenwood in Pope county, extending north through Douglas and Otter Tail counties and on north to the Canadian boundary line. The following stations are on this line in Otter Tail county: Parkers Prairie, Almora, Henning, Otter Tail, Richville, Dent and Vergas. All the stations on the road with the exception of Parkers Prairie and Henning have come into existence since the road was put through the county.

REMOVAL OF RAILROAD SHOPS FROM FERGUS FALLS.

At the time of building the St. Paul & Pacific railroad through Fergus Falls in 1879, George B. Wright and Henry G. Page guaranteed to the railroad company the right of way through the city. They were afterwards protected on such guarantee by the city's voting bonds to the amount of three thousand dollars to pay for the right of way.

Mr. Wright had been very active in securing the location of the railroad here, but after it came and its shops, roundhouse and headquarters were established, he commenced the agitation for building the branch line of the Northern Pacific railroad from Wadena to Fergus Falls, thence on to Breckenridge, and north to Pelican Rapids. This enterprise of Mr. Wright did not please the St. Paul & Pacific railroad people. Naturally, they were opposed to the building of such competing lines. This situation caused trouble between Mr. Wright and James J. Hill. Mr. Hill wrote a letter to Mr. Wright, containing certain statements displeasing to the people of Fergus Falls. The letter was shown by Mr. Wright to various parties of the city, and, to prove the genuineness of Mr. Hill's signature, he exhibited his, Mr. Wright's, pass on the railroad, which bore the signature of Mr. Hill.

During this controversy it was discovered that the railroad roundhouse at Fergus Falls extended a few feet beyond the right of way, and on to the land of Mr. Wright. He wrote a letter to Mr. Hill, demanding that the roundhouse be removed from his land. Mr. Hill replied that he would remove the roundhouse as soon as possible, and this he did, taking

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it with all shops and men to Barnesville as soon as the latter place could be prepared to receive them. He also instructed all conductors of trains that on presentation of Mr. Wright's pass, it was to be "taken up" and regular fare collected. This was done, and Mr. Wright ceased to ride "dead head" on any of the "Jim Hill" lines of road from that date.

The shops and division headquarters of the railroad being here, made a large monthly payroll, a large share of which money was naturally spent in the city. The removal was a sad blow to Fergus Falls.

One Sunday morning the writer was standing on the bridge over the railroad track at Union avenue. There passed under the bridge a long train of engines and cabooses on their way to Barnesville, and in the cabooses were the men, shouting "good-by" to Fergus Falls. It was a sad funeral procession, conveying the "remains" of Fergus Falls' hopes to the cemetery at Barnesville.

But Fergus Falls grew and prospered, notwithstanding its grief for the departed.

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CHAPTER XVII.

AGRICULTURE.

The topography of Otter Tail county, which is fully discussed in another chapter, has been the controlling element in the development of its agriculture. In the beginning of its development the western prairie region bordering the Red river valley was given over entirely to wheat raising and it was not until after 1905 that other crops challenged the supremacy of this pioneer grain. It was not until nearly 1900 that it was thought corn could be generally and successfully raised this far north.

The only representative of the so-called "bonanza" farms in the county was established in the township of Carlisle at French about 1882 on farms owned by Ames and French of Mexico, New York, and managed by C. J. Wright and D. M. Brown. Ames and French were progressive farm owners in the east and established a cheese factory, dairy and the beginnings of a pure bred herd on their Otter Tail county farm. By 1890 this farm had followed the course of other large farms and was gradually broken up into smaller units and rented.

Several farms operated by owners who lived on the farms developed to considerable size, notably the Wemple farms in Orwell, the Martin Hexum, A. O. Quam and Carl Umlauf farms in Carlisle, and the K. H. Bergerud farm in Aastad. C. H. Brush developed extensive land ownings in Orwell and Western; C. J. Wright in Carlisle, Fergus Falls and several other towns, and James A. Nowell developed a very large and well improved farm in Butler which he afterwards sold to the D. S. B. Johnston Land Company.

With few exceptions, Otter Tail county has been improved by the man who homesteaded a quarter section or bought from eighty and two hundred acres of school or railroad land. While the average sized farm has steadily increased, it is still below the two-hundred-acre mark. In the wooded portion of the county the smaller acreage immediately available for cultivation and the necessity of making use of the marsh hay and the timber pasture compelled an early turning to live stock. While these timber portions did not show such immediate prosperity as the prairie, this early development of dairying gave these timber farmers the lead in the forward movement and the buildings in such townships as Newton show its prosperity is second to none in the county.

It is worthy of notice that the farms of the county were largely settled by recent immigrants, mostly of Scandinavian or German blood, with a large percentage of Finns at a somewhat later date. All of these people

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settled in the country, the villages being populated at the start mostly with Yankees, English, Scotch and Irish. The German, Scandinavian and Finnish inhabitants of our villages are almost entirely descendants of these first farmers.

In the early days there was very little renting of land. As late as 1877 land within three miles of Fergus Falls could be bought at from two dollars and a quarter to five dollars an acre and the requirements in the way of buildings and improvements were slight. As the value of land increased there was a tendency for some of the newcomers to rent for a few years until they were able to buy land for themselves, and this tendency, which shows in every farming county, is on the increase in Otter Tail county.

The following table shows the varying production of the county in the different farm crops and animal products. It is interesting to note that there was twenty times as many acres of wheat as corn in 1870, thirty times as many in 1879, twelve times as many in 1900, and only five and a half times as many in 1910. This increase in corn acreage has been even more rapid since then and at this writing (1916) the corn crop covers at least a third as many acres as the wheat. Barley, rye, potatoes and clover show a similar increase. The most recent development is the introduction of alfalfa increasing from one acre to fifty-three acres between 1900 and 1910, and probably amounting to two thousand acres in 1916. Much of the increase in alfalfa is due to the work of the county agricultural agents who have advocated the use of this crop. A county agricultural agent was first secured for Otter Tail county in December, 1912. In 1914, the agent, F. R. Johnson, made a special campaign for the introduction of alfalfa and about six hundred and fifty acres were planted in the country during that year. The following year, 1915, no especial campaign was made as it was felt that the crop was now generally enough distributed to prove what it would do. The county agent gave help to all who applied for it in planting alfalfa, however, and about four hundred acres were seeded. Indications are that at least five hundred additional acres will be sown in 1916 which will give Otter Tail county an acreage in this crop of about two thousand acres. This is more than the total acreage of all crops in 1869, and represents an increase of nine hundred per cent. in three years.

	1869.	1870.	1879.	1900.	1910.
Number of farms	------	264	2,087	6,227	5,804
Acres of wheat	1,029	2,048	52,988	241,169	166,023
Bushels of wheat	12,901	32,014	812,515	3,941,120	2,436,207
Acres of Oats	405	969	11,192	52,059	83,328
Bushels of oats	10,795	22,983	413,128	1,541,520	2,142,813
Acres of corn	------	106	1,597	19,551	30,983
Bushels of corn	------	2,642	56,767	535,520	986,681
Acres of barley	------	------	820	4,921	31,122

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Bushels of barley	------	------	20,930	130,340	717,080
Acres of rye	------	------	473	1,216	15,070
Bushels of rye	------	------	9,290	18,650	246,153
Acres of potatoes	------	------	885	3,688	6,195
Bushels of potatoes	------	------	119,646	340,711	728,975
Acres of cultivated hay	------	------	530	15,851	71,363
Acres of wild hay	------	------	62,799	72,182	56,759
Acres flax	------	------	------	8,089	9,123
Bushels of flax	------	------	------	86,610	92,419
Bushels of clover seed	------	------	------	51	--------
Bushels of other grass seed	------	------	74	807	--------
Acres of beans	------	------	75	93	258
Bushels of beans	------	------	869	954	3,946
Total acres cultivated	1,378	3,871	69,932	505,358	592,598
Acres of alfalfa	------	------	------	1	53

The following table shows live stock statistics for 1880, 1900 and 1910:

	1880.	1900.	1910.
Number of sheep	4,714	18,646	19,427
Pounds of wool	20,585	65,760	------
Number milk cows	6,245	21,650	34,529
Total cattle	17,306	50,996	74,660
Number hogs	3,102	20,271	27,462
Number horses	5,155	22,677	23,164
Number mules	167	269	167
Value of poultry	------	$51,628	$104,835
Gallons milk produced	------	7,821,870	9,988,171
Pounds butter produced	727,165	1,571,902	1,262,512
Butter fat sold	------	--------	1,836,690
Pounds cheese produced	39,123	10,914	2,106
Gallons cream sold	------	465	109,775
Gallons milk sold	------	377,200	283,052
Value of dairy products	------	$349,759	$874,051

All branches of live stock industry show a similar increase, the one decrease being in the production of cheese. Before the number of cows was large enough to support butter factories, the cheese factory was the only alternative to the home making of butter, and as dairy butter usually sold at a low price the cheese industry was much more profitable. The increase in number of cows and the introduction of the centrifugal separator made the co-operative creamery possible. Since under this system it was not necessary to haul cream so often, most of the cheese factories were gradually discontinud. At one time or another cheese has been made at French, Balmoral, Western, Amor, Maine and Fergus Falls. With the further expansion of the dairy industry, which is now one of the most important of the country, there is a probability that cheese making will again come to the front. The manufacturer of ice cream also absorbs part of the milk production and this feature will undoubtedly take an ever increasing amount of milk.

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Another marked change that is not shown on the statistical table is the building of silos. While silo construction began in the United States in the seventies, it did not begin in Otter Tail county until about 1910. By 1915 there were about two hundred silos in use and the rate of increase was becoming more rapid.

The grasshopper was a prominent factor in the history of agriculture in Otter Tail county in the seventies and eighties. The county has long paid bounties on wolves and gophers, but the depredations of these two animals pale into insignificance beside the damage wrought by the grasshoppers in any one of their raids across the county. Many references have been made elsewhere in this history to the grasshopper and the editor has paid his respects to the pestiferous insect in a special article. There can be no question but that some of the grasshopper raids of the seventies had a disastrous effect upon the growth of the county for the time being. When it is known that a swarm of grasshoppers could completely ruin a crop within twenty-four hours, and that the farmer had no means of knowing when to expect such a raid, it can be seen that such conditions would not be liable to advertise the county as a promising place to settle. In one instance the grasshoppers settled on an onion patch and not only ate the tops, but the bulbs as well, so that nothing was left but the empty holes where the bulbs had been. It is reported that when this swarm of hoppers finally flew over town the onion smell was distinctly noticeable.

Frantic efforts were made to destroy the pests, trenches were dug to intercept their march and "hopper dozers" were driven over the infested fields. The "hopper dozer" was a tin trough with a vertical canvas screen behind it. When this instrument was hauled across a field the hoppers jumped against the screen, fell into the trough and were killed by the oil which had been placed there.

Bounties were paid on the hoppers and many farmers are said to have made more from their hopper crop than any other. There were even quarrels caused by enterprising citizens "hoppering" on their neighbor's fields.

Probably the most severe raid of the grasshoppers occurred in 1877. In fact, the damage done that year was so great that the Legislature took cognizance of the condition of the farmers throughout the state and passed an act (February 12, 1878) providing for the extension of financial relief to the farmers who had lost their crops as a result of the grasshoppers. As result of this act Otter Tail county received five thousand ninety-three dollars and fifty cents from the state to purchase grain for the grasshopper sufferers. As soon as the county commissioners received notice of the passage of the act they called a special meting for March 5, 1878, at which time, according to notice previously given in the newspapers, they would

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receive and examine applications from farmers in the county who desired to borrow grain for seed. On that date two hundred and seventy-one farmers appeared in person to make application for grain. It is interesting to note that only two farmers asked for corn, and they only wanted one-half bushel each. All of the other grain was wheat or oats. By March 18th the county had accepted applications for seven thousand five hundred and ninety-four bushels of wheat, one thousand and two bushels of oats and one bushel of corn. The commissioners paid eighty cents for wheat and thirty cents for oats; the price of corn is not given. Of the total amount of money spent by the county seventy per cent. came out of the state fund, and the remainder out of a fund provided by the county. Otter Tail county authorized a bond issue not to exceed two thousand three hundred dollars on March 18, 1878, to take care of its share of the total fund to be devoted to the grasshopper sufferers.

Frequent references are found in the commissioners' records of requests for relief from taxes because the person requesting relief had lost his crop as a result of the devastating grasshopper. Gradually, however, the danger from grasshoppers passed away, and by the end of the eighties it had disappeared as a disturbing factor in the life of the Otter Tail county farmer. The latest outbreaks of grasshoppers in 1911 and 1912, while causing some alarm, were less destructive than the first. The twentieth-century hopper succumbed to climatic influences or natural enemies before becoming so widely numerous as to be dangerous.

Another event in the history of the county is the bumper crop of 1895. Many explanations for this crop have been given, but none that really explains. Some influence in the season seemed to favor all plant life. Wheat fields that were pounded into the ground in June by hail so that nothing green remained, recovered naturally and made bumper crops that fall. The following yields on farms where accurate records were kept will show the difference between this year and those preceding and succeeding it, the figures indicating bushels per acre of wheat on the lands designated for the years in question:

Section.	Township.	1893.	1894.	1895.	1896.	1897.
20	Fergus Falls	5	9	32	8	18
19	Fergus Falls	13	13	38	8	8
23	Carlisle	6	12	31	4	7
28	Carlisle		9	27	5	5
22	Girard	6	7	30	8	11
4	Girard	6	5	25	4	10
2	Aastad	6	10	29	7	8
21	Everts		7	33	11	11

One of the hopeful signs of the future of Otter Tail county is to be seen in the large number of organizations of various kinds which have for

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their purpose the improvements of farming conditions. For many years after the county was organized in 1868, no such a thing as a farmers' club was known. Creameries, cheese factories, co-operative insurance companies, telephone companies, shipping associations, farmers' clubs, etc., were almost unknown until the nineties. In fact, the efforts of farmers to combine their strength to improve conditions did not find expression to any great extent until after 1900. Since that time a large number of organizations have come into existence, all of which have for their express purpose the advancement of the interests of the farmers.

The Grange movement here merged into the Farmers Alliance and became wholly political. Later it took the form of Populism and there remained none of the social features of the Grange, as existing in other communities, so that when Populism lost its identity in the Bryan campaign there was no strong farmers' organization left. The principal achievements of the Farmers Alliance movement was the passage of laws compelling railroads to allow farmers to load their own cars with farm produce or to build their own elevators. Before this time only the large elevator companies were allowed to load cars with grain and the farmers justly felt that this monopoly was harmful to their interests. Out of Populism also grew many reform measures now adopted by all the present political parties, but as a distinctly farmer's organization nothing remains but the memory.

It is not the purpose of this article to go into detail to show what all of the various organizations of the farmer are doing, but rather to set forth in a general way what is being done. It is a matter of general knowledge that the telephone has been of great benefit to the farmers, and that rural banks—and the county now supports thirty-three—have placed ready money at his disposal; that the creameries and cheese factories have brought thousands of dollars into the family treasury; that the shipping associations have given him better markets and better prices. All of these facts are patent to the farmer who reads his paper. Since the establishment of the county mail service in 1906 the farmer is put into daily communication with the outside world and this fact marks a great step in the life of the farmer. The daily mail and the telephone are two of the biggest factors in the improvement of rural life in Otter Tail county. Added to these innovations should be mentioned the good roads movement. One expert has said that for every dollar put on roads two dollars are added to the value of the land through which the road passes, and this statement is not by any means exaggerated.

The insistent cry of the times is "co-operation." The farmer has seen that siness of other kinds has prospered for the reason that it was organized directed along co-operative lines. If the manufacture of reapers and ers became lucrative because of co-operation, why could not the

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farmer who used these implements also unite in some such way so that they could raise better corn, more wheat and fatter hogs and with greater profit. Herein lies the reason for the organization of all kinds of clubs for the farmer. And so there has come into existence the many farmers' clubs of Otter Tail county. They point the way to the emancipation of the farmer and to a day when he will also realize six per cent. on his investment. Some of the many organizations of this county which have made their appearance within the past decade are indicated in the succeeding paragraph. Each one has its own organization, each has its little group of earnest workers, each is striving for but one thing—to make life for the farmer of Otter Tail county better in every way. They are in touch with one another through the county agricultural agent and are thus given the power that comes from united effort.

An enumeration of these clubs show a variety of names, some suggestive of agriculture pure and simple, and others indicating a combination of agricultural, literary and social interests. All, however, are working for the same thing. A list of these clubs follows: Aurora Literary Society, Deer Creek Get Together Club, Aastad Literary Society, Oscar Literary Society, Lake Side Society of Star Lake, Wrightstown Farmers Club, Buse Farmers Club, Aastad Farmers Club, Bangor Farmers Club, Bluffton Farmers Club, Carlisle Farmers Club, Compton Farmers Club, Dane Prairie Farmers Club, Erhard Farmers Club, Farmers Improvement Club of Edwards (Friberg), Inman Farmers Club, Lyman Farmers Club, Sverdrup Farmers Club, Oak Valley Farmers Club, Tordenskjold Farmers Club, Otter Tail County Poultry Association, East Side Farmers Club, Maplewood Farmers Club, Western Farmers Club, Dalton Farmers Club, Underwood Farmers Club and Fergus Falls Farmers Club.

Some of these organizations hold annual fairs on a small scale and offer prizes for farm products. The clearing houses for the farmers of the county are the annual county fairs at Fergus Falls and Perham, which are held primarily for the farmers. Here may be found on display the best products the county can produce, the finest grains and fruits, the sleekest cattle and fattest hogs—and the fanciest fancy work of the farmers' wives. The product of the plow competes with the handicraft of the needle; the farmers' wheat is shown along with the bread which their wives make from it. The result is a stimulus to better things in every phase of life and no farmer can attend the county fair without returning home a wiser man.

Another distinct feature of the trend of things affecting the welfare of the farmer is shown in the co-operative elevators established by them in many parts of the county. Thus there are such organizations as the Farmers Grain and Mercantile Company of Carlisle, The Dalton Grain & Lumber

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Company, The Farmers Co-operative Association of Pelican Rapids and Erhard, the Farmers Company of Battle Lake, the Clitherall Grain Association, the Farmers Co-operative Elevator Company, of Fergus Falls, and the Underwood Grain Association. Supplementary to these organizations may be mentioned the live stock shipping associations of Otter Tail county. Five of these associations are members of The Farmers Society of Equity, a national co-operative association: Parkers Prairie, Richville, Dent, Perham and Ottertail. The remainder of these associations are not affiliated with this national association. They follow: Pelican Rapids, Erhard (branch of Pelican Rapids), Fergus Falls, Ashby, Clitherall, Deer Creek, Amor-Maine, Underwood, Dalton, Henning, New York Mills, Heinola. These co-operative elevators and shipping organizations have undoubtedly been of great benefit to the farmers in enabling them to market their products more advantageously.

In another chapter is given a history of the creameries and cheese factories of the county. More than thirty such companies have been organized and all of them have proved financial successes for their incorporators. It has been estimated that more than a million dollars a year is being milked from the patient cow by the farmers of the county. Forty years ago the farmer had no conception of the money making possibilities of the cow; then a cow was simply a cow, a handy animal to have for the children, but not dreamed of as a valuable asset. Today there are hundreds of farmers who can testify to taxes paid, mortgages lifted, pianos bought and automobiles ridden in, all of which came out of the family milk bucket.

Another exemplification of co-operation among the farmers is shown in the many mutual fire insurance companies which have sprung up in the county. Here again may be seen the spirit of brotherly helpfulness. The result is the organization of mutual insurance companies, the losses to be met by an annual assessment. Thus it has come to pass that Otter Tail county has added another co-operative organization to its list—the insurance company. Today the following companies of this nature are operating in the county, not a single one for profit, but for protection only: Bluffton Township Mutual Fire Insurance Company, Effington Township German Mutual Insurance Company, Finnish Township Mutual Fire Insurance Company, Oscar Township Mutual Fire Insurance Company, Parkers Prairie Mutual Fire Insurance Company, Perham Township German Mutual Fire Insurance and Sverdrup Scandinavian Mutual Insurance Company. In addition to these companies authorized to do business in Otter Tail county there are three others in adjoining counties which have policy holders in Otter Tail county, viz.: Delaware Township Mutual Fire Insurance Com-

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pany, Lake Park & Cuba Township Mutual Fire Insurance Company and Parke Township Mutual Fire Insurance Company.

The county fair movement was one of the first agricultural movements in the county. Two fair associations successfully existed in Fergus Falls, their grounds being situated north of the city—one on the ground now occupied by the state insane hospital, the other immediately east of the first location. The principal feature of the first fairs was horse racing and the Otter Tail county fair suffered from the decline that affected fair interests in the eighties and discontinued. The grounds were later used as an athletic park, but fell into dilapidation and were finally sold.

A few years later Charles J. Wright, with a view of stimulating corn raising, started a corn contest, the first one with forty-four entries, being held in the winter of 1908. The corn contest was repeated in 1909 and its success led to the incorporation in the following December of the Otter Tail County Fair Association. The association held its first fair October 22, 1910, in the Fergus Falls high school building, and paid out in premiums, mainly on school exhibits and corn, the sum of two hundred ninety-three dollars and seventy-four cents. In 1911 and 1912 the fair was held as a street fair; in 1913 it was held in the city athletic park; in 1914 it was held in the new industrial high school building. In 1915 the association purchased thirty acres of ground north of University hill, built a track, erected buildings and became a full-fledged fair. Its growth has been steady and holds promise of greater things for the future.

The Perham fair was started as a street fair with merchandise prizes and held its first meeting on October 9, 1909. It adopted the cash prize system in 1910 and became a county fair in every sense of the term. It conducted excellent fairs with a steady improvement quality and quantity. In 1915 it erected buildings. Street fairs have been held from time to time in the villages of Parkers Prairie, New York Mills, Battle Lake and Pelican Rapids; Farmers Club fairs have been held by the Compton, Star Lake and Carlisle Clubs.

The unification of the various agricultural organizations has immensely furthered the work of all. The State Agricultural College has for years sent literature and institute speakers into all the counties of the state. In May, 1910, institute speakers assisted in the organization of the first farmers club in the county near Wall Lake.

The establishment of an agricultural and industrial department in the Fergus Falls high school, under the Putnam act, added a new element which worked in harmony with the college, the two institutions holding short courses in agriculture as joint projects. Later similar work was

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started in part in several of the other schools. Perham has established a full course in agriculture and industrial work. The county fair was from the start intimately connected with the schools and this co-operation has continued.

In connection with the short course at the Fergus Falls high school, the farmers around Fergus Falls organized in the winter of 1911 the "Better Farming Association of Otter Tail County," to conduct short courses, boost agriculture, and with the idea of ultimately starting cow testing work. Some correspondence was had to gather information on the "Better Farming Association" work in North Dakota, as well as the county agent work conducted jointly by the United States government and the Rockefeller Institute in the cotton belt and by the farmers' unions of Germany and Denmark.

Nothing definitely was accomplished until in May, 1912, when Sears, Roebuck & Company offered to donate the sum of one thousand dollars to the first one hundred counties that would employ county agricultural agents. This fund was offered through the Council of grain Exchanges, representatives of the Grain Exchanges, the United States department of agriculture, the Minnesota Agricultural College and others interested was held a meeting at Glenwood, on May 23-24. A plan of organization was outlined under which the federal and state agricultural departments would furnish part of the money for the support of a county agricultural agent in each county that would raise one thousand dollars a year to support the expenses of the work. As the funds were limited and only the first counties to qualify could get the county agent, haste was essential. Otter Tail county was represented at the meeting and a whirlwind campaign was commenced and a guaranty of the money to be obtained locally was made by the citizens of all parts of the county. The local committees proceeded to circulate subscription lists; a committee to take charge of the work was appointed and on December 5, 1912, the county agent commenced work. The Sears Roebuck money was received as soon as the necessary amount had been guaranteed.

F. R. Johnson, of Casselton, North Dakota, a graduate of the Minnesota Agricultural College, was the first agent, and served successfully in the difficult task of starting the new movement. In October, 1914, Mr. Johnson resigned to take further work at the university and J. V. Bopp was appointed as his successor. Mr. Bopp was reared on an Illinois farm, graduated from the Illinois Agricultural College, and had had experience at the South Dakota Agricultural College as assistant editor of the *Northwestern Farmstead*, as county agent in North Dakota and as a Missouri farmer. His work in Otter Tail county has been very successful.

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The county organization in charge of the work during the first year was a committee elected by the subscribers to the funds. In May, 1913, application was made to have the county support the work by an appropriation. The county commissioners granted the request but the further continuance of the appropriation was to be submitted to the annual township meetings in the spring of 1914. This appropriation commenced in January, 1914, and carried on the county agent work one year.

The 1914 townships meetings did not as a rule vote on the question, but of those voting, about four-fifths were opposed to county agent work. This was partly due to the fact that the work was too new to have demonstrated its value by results and partly due to the increase of taxes which was very noticeable at that time, though not in any way due to the county agent movement, as the total county appropriation for the work would only increase the tax fifteen cents on the average farm. After the county appropriations ceased to work was financed by appropriations made by the farmers' clubs of the county and by subscriptions taken among the progressive farmers and business men. An organization, called the Otter Tail County Farm Bureau, was formed, composed of the subscribers to the fund and the members of the various farmers clubs co-operating in the work. This organization, through a board of directors, elected at annual conventions, together with the State Agricultural College and the United States department of agriculture, finances and manages the county agent work in the county at the present time. The Farm Bureau acts as a clearing house and bond of union between all the local, state and national organizations for agricultural work, and co-operates with them and with individual farmers in investigation of farm problems and the dissemination of information regarding better farm methods.

The county agent is co-operating with the fairs and schools in conducting contests for the boys and girls in corn raising, bread making, potato growing, pig raising, gardening and canning, and in organizing clubs among them. He works with the farmers' clubs on such problems as working programs and debates.

Definite projects of farm work have been started more particularly a farm management survey of agricultural conditions at Pelican Rapids, alfalfa growing and liming experiments at Otter Tail and Pelican Rapids and potato disease control at Deer Creek and Battle Lake. One hundred and fifty farmers are using farm record books for systematizing their business in co-operation with the county agent, and several are conducting hog pastures and feeding demonstrations. Cow testing associations have been organized around Otter Tail and Fergus Falls, and seven carloads of well-bred dairy cattle have been shipped into the county co-operatively.

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It has been shown that there are great variations in the profits made in farming, some farmers in the county making as high as fifteen hundred dollars a year besides interest on their investment, and others getting nothing for their work and not even coming within five hundred dollars a year of making interest. There are individual cows in the county that are returning as much as two hundred and forty acres a year to their owners in milk and the sale of their calves, and others that return as little as twenty-five dollars a year. One aim of the work is to raise the average nearer to the best records.

The records of the county agent's office show that in 1915 he made seventy hundred and seventy visits, visiting six hundred different farms; receiving four hundred and thirty telephone calls; five hundred and seventy office visits on business; traveled six thousand seven hundred and sixty-six miles by automobile; sixteen hundred and ten by train, two hundred and fifty-six by team and eight miles on foot in the course of his employment. He wrote eight hundred and fifty letters in answer to inquiries from farmers. The work was carried on in forty-seven of the sixty-two townships of the county. He addressed eighty-three farmers' meetings, with a total attendance of 9,710 people.

Be it remembered that to no one man or movement is the credit for the progress of Otter Tail county agriculture due. There are hundreds of individual farmers who should have mention because of the excellent work they are doing on their own farms and in the conduct of the various farmers organizations. The limits of this chapter would not allow the tale to be told of their work, nor can any one writer know the full list of those who would deserve to receive praise. These efforts are the forces that are driving the county forward to better things. It will be for the future historians of Otter Tail to trace the results of their labors and testify to the public esteem for the part they shall have had in the building of the better Otter Tail county that is to come.

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CHAPTER XVIII.

BANKS AND BANKING.

A sure indication of the prosperity of any community is shown by the amount of its bank deposits, and taking this as a criterion, it may be said that Otter Tail county is in a prosperous condition. The first bank in Otter Tail county was the First National Bank of Fergus Falls, which opened for business in 1872, only four years after the county was organized. As the county increased in population and wealth, other banks were organized and today the county can boast of no less than thirty-three banks, located in twenty-one towns of the county. For the first decade after 1872 the First National Bank of Fergus Falls was the only financial institution in the county. In 1882 the Merchants Bank of Fergus Falls and a bank in Pelican Rapids were established, the former later becoming the present Fergus Falls National Bank and the latter the J. P. Wallace State Bank. In 1883 the Citizens National Bank of Fergus Falls was organized with a capital stock of $75,000, and it remained in business until 1897, when it went into voluntary liquidation, paying all of its depositors in full.

There are now eight national banks in the county, two at Fergus Falls and one each at Battle Lake, Pelican Rapids, Henning, Parkers Prairie, Perham and Deer Creek. All of the other banks in the county—twenty-five in number—are state banks, seven of them being known as "Farmers" banks, and two others as "Farmers and Merchants" banks. It is safe to say that the prosperity of the banks of the county is largely due to the farmers of the county. When a village the size of Carlisle, with its population of less than a score, can support a bank and show resources of nearly $45,000 within less than three months after it was organized, it indicates that the community is prosperous to an unusual degree. The surprising thing in the banking history of the county is the rapid organization of banks since 1908. No less than sixteen banks have been started since that year, seven of which began operations in 1908, and all of these banks were paying good dividends at the end of their first year of business.

A study of banking conditions in Fergus Falls shows that the five banks of the city increased their deposits by nearly $200,000 in 1915 over the previous year. On October 31, 1914, the total deposits in the four banks amounted to $2,507,565.59; a statement on November 10, 1915, for the five banks (the Farmers and Merchants Bank was organized in 1915) showed deposits of $2,699,843.56; thus the increase in a year amounts to $192,277.97. Bankers and business men are universally agreed that this

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showing breaks all previous records and points the way toward still better conditions in the future. With this amount of money in the community it is no longer necessary for business men to seek outside capital for the promotion of legitimate enterprises.

The following table shows the banks of the county now in operation, together with the dates of their organization. In some instances the date given is not the one on which the bank began its career, since in a few cases the present corporation is the outgrowth of a former institution:

Fergus Falls—	
First National Bank	1872
Fergus Falls National Bank	1882
First State Bank	1902
Scandia State Bank	1902
Farmers and Merchants State Bank	1915
Pelican Rapids—	
First National Bank	1907
J. P. Wallace State Bank	1904
State Bank of Pelican Rapids	1912
Battle Lake—	
First National Bank	1907
First State Bank	1905
Henning—	
First National Bank	1903
Farmers State Bank	1906
Parkers Prairie—	
First National Bank	1903
State Bank of Parkers Prairie	1903
Perham—	
First National Bank	1902
State Bank of Perham	1904
Underwood—	
First State Bank	1908
Farmers State Bank	1916
New York Mills—	
First State Bank	1908
Farmers and Merchants Bank	1916
Deer Creek—	
First National Bank	1904
Vining—	
Lunds State Bank	1909

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Vergas—
Farmers State Bank 1905
Elizabeth—
Merchants State Bank 1907
Richville—
Farmers State Bank 1908
Dent—
Farmers State Bank 1908
Dalton—
First State Bank 1908
Clitherall—
First State Bank 1908
Otter Tail—
Security State Bank 1908
Bluffton—
State Bank of Bluffton 1911
Erhard—
State Bank of Erhard 1913
Almora—
State Bank of Almora 1914
Carlisle—
Farmers State Bank 1915

The history of each bank in the county has been obtained from the present officials of the banks. The history of the one bank in the county which has gone out of business, the Citizens National Bank of Fergus Falls, has been written by the editor, who is undoubtedly as well if not better acquainted with the career of the bank than any other person in the county. The separate sketches of the banks are given in the order in which they appear in the above table.

CITIZENS NATIONAL BANK OF FERGUS FALLS.

The Citizens National Bank of Fergus Falls was organized in 1883, with a capital stock of $75,000. James Compton was president and Charles C. Warfield, the cashier.

This bank continued in business until 1897, when, after a rather checkered career, it closed its doors, paid its depositors in full, while the stockholders, with one or two exceptions, were subjected to loss. The stockholder who came out of the wreck "ahead of the game" was the cashier. This cashier removed, very suddenly, to Texas, presumably taking all records of the bank with him, which makes it difficult to give exact data of the history of this financial institution. At least, the writer has been unable to find any of the records of the bank except his own deposit book.

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In 1892 the president of the First National Bank of Fergus Falls, Henry G. Page, largely interested in milling operations, failed and, with the Page Flouring Mills, went into insolvency. This failure greatly affected the other banks of the city and the president of the Citizens National Bank, James Compton. Without going into details, it is sufficient to state that these failures necessitated the resignation of Mr. Compton as president of the bank.

On January 2, 1891, J. W. Mason was elected president to succeed Mr. Compton. Mr. Mason being attorney for the Great Northern Railway Company and engaged in a very active law practice, it was understood that he was not to take any active part in the bank's management, but to act in an advisory capacity only. Charles C. Warfield was the cashier from the start to the finish, and during all of that time, a director. How he "directed" is a story never before written.

The struggle of all banks during the panic and financial depression of 1893 and 1894 has passed into history and the banks of Fergus Falls bore their full share of the burden. After matters began to ease up and the banks of the country were getting on their feet again, Mr. Warfield, in December, 1894, conceived the idea of preparing a statement of the affairs of the Citizens National Bank, giving its resources and liabilities, with a statement of its worthless paper and sending a copy of the same to each stockholder, from which they could know the exact value of their stock. Mr. Mason was to make the draft of such statement, after which it was to be printed and sent to each stockholder. Together, the president and cashier of the bank went over the books, leaving out all the paper that was deemed worthless and agreed that the actual value of the stock was from ninety to ninety-five per cent of its par value.

This statement was prepared by Mr. Mason and given to Mr. Warfield to print and mail to the stockholders. Time passed on, but no statement appeared. When asked about the delay, Mr. Warfield claimed that he was too busy to attend to it, but was always going to do so soon. The matter thus dragged itself along until the latter part of June, 1895, when Mr. Mason again urged the printing and mailing of this statement to the stockholders, particularly as many of the foreign shareholders had written for information as to the actual value of their stock.

At the time of this last talk about the delay of getting out the statement, Mr. Warfield called Mr. Mason into the back room of the bank, saying he had a proposition to make which would be advantageous to them both. He said that he had concluded not to send out the statement which had been agreed upon, but, instead, had written to some of the stockholders, and as a result of such correspondence he had bought the stock of a Mr. Smith, a

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resident of Pennsylvania, for, as the writer remembers the price, forty cents on the dollar. Having thus prefaced his "proposition" he went on to state it. It was this: Write to all the stockholders, sending them a statement of the condition of the bank; charge off all paper that was past due or at least doubtful, and thus bring the stock down to a value not exceeding thirty or thirty-five cents on the dollar; buy their stock at some such figure, and after thus getting possession of the stock, go at it and collect the paper thus charged off as far as possible and renew the balance; with cash realized from collections and discounting the paper at the other banks, together with the deposits on hand, pay off the depositors in full, and thus make a fine profit for themselves.

Mr. Mason declined the proposition and went at once to a director of the bank and laid the cashier's scheme before him. Being unable to impress this director with the importance of the situation, on the same day he handed to the cashier his resignation as president and director of the bank. The directors, for some reason, made no move in the premises, and Mr. Warfield carried out his plan. It is not charged that any of the directors aside from Warfield reaped any benefit from the scheme, but there was soon evidence that it was working.

A few days afterward a widow, owning five hundred dollars worth of stock, came into Mr. Mason's office, very much distressed, and asked the value of her stock. He told her it was impossible for him to state and to ask Mr. Warfield. She said, "I have asked him and he says it is not worth anything."

Warfield was a deacon in one of the churches and, for some reason not given, the writer is requested not to mention the name of the church. The "deacon" was a Southerner, "sah," from Lexington, Kentucky, "sah," and prided himself on the chivalrous characteristics inherent in gentlemen of the Blue Grass region. One evening, after the bank had closed at four o'clock, a debtor was present trying to adjust some dispute over an endorsement of fifteen dollars which he, the debtor, claimed should have been made on his note, and which did not appear thereon. The temperature of the "deacon's" southern blood was rising rapidly when he said, "Ah, I know you fellas, sah. I've had others make kicks, sah, before this, sah." "I don't doubt it," said the farmer, "I am not the first man you have beaten out of his honest dues." No gentleman, "sah,," would stand such an insult as that, when the deacon jumped up and shouted, "If I had you out doahs, sah, I would soon settle that with you, sah. I'd take that fifteen dollars out of your hide, sah." The farmer jumped up and said, "Come on, I'll go out doors, or anywhere else, with you." "I'll go with you, sah," said the "deacon," when he stepped to his desk, pulled a big revolver from a drawer,

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ran up to the farmer and, shaking the same in his face, cried: "Come on, sah; come on, sah. I'm ready for you, sah." As may be supposed, the farmer was frightened and made a bolt for the door, out into the street, leaving his hat with the "deacon."

At the next session of the grand jury the farmer told to that august body his experience at the bank and the deacon's manner of collecting notes. After listening to the proofs, the grand jury returned an indictment against Warfield, charging him with assault with a dangerous weapon. The "deacon's" friends, after a little "horse-shedding" with the court, secured a promise that if Warfield would plead guilty, it, the court, would impose a fine of not more than fifty dollars. The court adhered to its promise. Warfield plead "guilty" and paid the fine, fifty dollars.

One other episode closed Warfield's career in Fergus Falls. On one occasion, and over some trivial matter, he had a wordy altercation with a very prominent citizen, a rival in business. Meeting this man a few days later in the office of a mutual friend, the former quarrel was renewed. Who began it, the writer cannot state, but after the exchange of some words, Warfield drew a knife and made a vicious attack on the man, stabbing him several times. The knife, at one wound in the chest, entered the victim's lung, and for a time great fears were entertained of his recovery. The next morning the "deacon" was not to be found. He left the city between two days, not even waiting for the usual letter severing his church membership. Needless to say that he has not been back here since, "sah."

FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF FERGUS FALLS.

The First National Bank of Fergus Falls was the first national bank organized north and west of Minneapolis. It was organized in 1872 under the leadership of Henry G. Page, Captain James Compton and George B. Wright. Mr. Page became its first president and Captain Compton, its cashier. It occupied temporary quarters in a wooden building for a year or two and then built the brick building at the corner of Lincoln avenue and Cascade street, which was supposed to be the center of town, as it was near the water power, and in those days industries surrounded the water powers, as there was no means of transmitting power as is the case now by electricity.

Later, Charles D. Wright became connected with the institution as vice-president and this organization continued until 1883. In the meantime the Fergus Falls National Bank had been organized, E. A. Jewett being the cashier. In 1883 the town had reached such proportions that it was apparent that there was need of more financial institutions and the men who controlled the First National Bank decided to occupy the field themselves. H. G. Page sold his control in the First National Bank to Charles D. Wright and purchased controlling interest in the Fergus Falls National Bank,

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becoming president of that bank and severing his official connection with the First National Bank.

At the same time Captain Compton organized the Citizens National Bank, becoming president of that institution. E. A. Jewett resigned as cashier of the Fergus Falls National Bank and became cashier of the First National Bank, which position he has occupied continuously for thirty-three years.

The First National Bank has had but three presidents in its forty-four years of existence, the first being Henry G. Page, who occupied the position from 1871 to 1883; Charles D. Wright, from 1883 to 1912, and Elmer E. Adams, who was elected in 1912 and is still president. The bank has had but two cashiers, James Compton, who served from its organization to 1883, and E. A. Jewett, who has served from 1883 down to the present time.

The bank was capitalized at $50,000 when organized, but in 1884 increased its capital stock to $100,000. In the meantime the center of town had moved from Whitford street to the intersection of Mill street and Lincoln avenue and the bank accordingly purchased a corner there and in 1884 erected the building which it now occupies.

The First National Bank is recognized as a conservative institution and confines its business exclusively to the receiving of deposits and loaning money. Its deposits have steadily increased and now range around $1,000,000.

Associated with Mr. Adams, the president, and Mr. Jewett, the cashier, on the board of directors are the following well-known business men of Fergus Falls: Charles D. Wright, former president; Cyrus Beall, president of Beall-McGowan Company, wholesale grocers; M. T. McMahon, the lumberman; W. B. Windsor, of the Fergus Flour Mills Company; Vernon A. Wright, president of the Otter Tail Power Company; F. G. Barrows, of the Red River Milling Company, and Robert Hannah, of the Northwestern Building Association. R. E. Lincoln has been assistant cashier since 1903 and connected with the bank since 1897.

FERGUS FALLS NATIONAL BANK.

The Fergus Falls National Bank is an outgrowth of the Merchants Bank. The latter was organized as a state banking corporation on the first Monday in January, 1882. The original capital stock of this corporation was placed at fifty thousand dollars, and this was divided into five hundred shares of one hundred dollars each. The incorporators were: E. D. Dyar, of Dover; E. A. Jewett, William D. Lowry, Charles J. Sawbridge, Jasper W. Earl, John H. Allen and L. W. Schmitz, all residents of Fergus Falls. The government of said corporation and the management of its affairs was vested in a board of five directors, who were elected at the annual meeting

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of the stockholders held on the last Saturday in December. The first officers were: E. D. Dyar, president; John H. Allen, vice-president, and E. A. Jewett, first cashier. In January, 1884, the capital was increased to $70,000, and in January, 1916, the capital was increased to $100,000.

This bank continued as a state corporation until March, 1882, when it was incorporated under the federal laws as a national bank and called the Fergus Falls National. This bank now has a savings department and does a large farm loan business. The present bank building, which is located at the corner of Lincoln and Court, was erected in 1913, at a cost of $55,000. The deposits, according to the last statement, were $1,056,-667.34 with surplus and undivided profits of $41,416.33. The present officers are: Joseph S. Ulland, president; E. H. Rich, vice-president; Frank J. Evans, cashier; Henry G. Dahl, assistant cashier; Joseph M. Sannes, teller.

FIRST STATE BANK OF FERGUS FALLS.

The First State Bank of Fergus Falls was organized, May 2, 1902, with a capital stock of $25,000, divided into two hundred and fifty shares of one hundred dollars each. The names of the original shareholders of this bank were as follows: A. Brandenburg, A. E. Luedke, J. G. Durrell, George W. Downing, N. F. Field, D. F. Rae, A. A. McLeod, Peter Maurin, J. H. Bell, August Burar, Steve Butler, F. J. Pfferle, O. J. Fossen, John Lauritzen, C. W. Kaddatz, John A. Buor, A. R. Kitts, A. H. Denniston, K. W. Bondy, L. L. Baxter, Ole Rian, John K. Wyatt, Amund Nelson and Elmer E. Adams. The government of this corporation is vested in a board of seven directors, the first board of directors being composed of the following members: Amund Nelson, J. G. Durrell, J. H. Bell, N. F. Field, C. W. Kaddatz, A. E. Luedke and A. Brandenburg. A. E. Luedke served the bank as the first president, with Amund Nelson as vice-president and A. Brandenburg as cashier. This bank now has a savings department and does a general business in farm loans. The present officers are: A Brandenburg, president; A. Boe, cashier; B. M. Lein, assistant cashier.

SCANDIA STATE BANK OF FERGUS FALLS.

The Scandia State Bank of Fergus Falls was incorporated on January 31, 1912, with a capital stock of 325,000, which is divided into two hundred and fifty shares of one hundred dollars each. There were five original shareholders with equally divided shares, as follow: Frank P. Woods, G. H. Woodhouse, residents of Estherville; J. O. Barke, L. P. Gjermo and Charles A. Root, three latter residents of Fergus Falls. The government of this corporation is vested in a board of not less than five or more than nine directors, the first board of directors being made up of the following

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ONE OF FERGUS FALLS' CLASSIC BUILDINGS.

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members: Frank P. Wood, G. H. Woodhouse, J. O. Barke, L. P. Gjermo and Charles A. Root. The first officers were: Frank P. Woods, president; George H. Woodhouse, vice-president; L. P. Gjermo, cashier; Charles A. Root, assistant cashier. The capital stock of this bank was increased from $25,000 to $50,000 January 9, 1912, and has remained as such. The present officers of the bank are as follow: Dr. Olaf Th. Sherping, president; John O. Barke, vice-president; A. G. Anderson, cashier; E. M. Anderson, assistant cashier; George W. Knoff, assistant cashier. The directors for the bank are as follow: Dr. Olaf Th. Sherping, George W. Frankberg, K. H. Bergerud, E. M. Anderson, Olaf Schei, John O. Barke, O. H. Lee, K. K. Peterson and A. G. Anderson. This bank carries a savings department and does a general farm loan business. The bank building, which is located on the corner of Lincoln and Mill streets, was erected in 1913 at a cost of $30,000 and is a strictly modern and up-to-date building. At the close of the business November 10, 1915, the following statement of the finances of the bank was issued: Deposits, $480,331.96; surplus, $15,000; loans and discounts, $438,020.69.

FARMERS AND MERCHANTS STATE BANK OF FERGUS FALLS.

The Farmers and Merchants State Bank of Fergus Falls was organized on May 22, 1915. This bank was opened for business on August 2, 1915. The capital stock of this corporation is $25,000, divided into two hundred and fifty shares of one hundred dollars each, and at the time of the incorporation was owned by the following persons: W. S. Winslow, Fergus Falls; T. M. Alexander, Battle Lake; W. R. Erridge, Pipestone; Ole C. Boyum, Slayton; O. W. MacGregor, Crookston; C. M. Hunt, Charles L. Alexander, J. P. Johnson, C. D. Baker, M. Benson, H. B. Solberg, G. W. Bates, Clara M. Hoorn, J. W. Campbell, Lewis Lohmeier, George Campbell, T. H. Johnson, Lina B. Overwick, C. E. Swenson, J. M. Bye, H. P. Bye, Samuel Johnson and R. A. Hoorn, residents of Fergus Falls. The capital stock may be increased from time to time by a majority vote of stockholders, but not to exceed the sum of one hundred thousand dollars. The highest amount of indebtedness or liability to which the corporation shall at any time be subject is three hundred thousand dollars. The present officers of this bank are, W. L. Winslow, president; O. C. Boyum, vice-president, and T. M. Alexander, cashier. These three men also comprised the first officers. The bank has a savings department and does a general farm loan business. According to the last statement of the bank the deposits amount to $85,621.32 with a surplus of $5,000. This bank has furnishings and fixtures valued at $3,500.00.

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FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF PELICAN RAPIDS.

The First National Bank of Pelican Rapids was organized in 1902. There were eight members of the original body of organizers as follow: R. L. Frazee, H. E. Frazee, P. C. Frazee, E. J. Webber, J. S. Ulland, O. F. Ulland, F. J. Evans and P. M. Joice. The original capital stock was placed at $25,000 and this has never been increased. The first officers of the bank were P. M. Joice, president; F. J. Evans, vice-president; O. F. Ulland, cashier.

The present officers are: O. M. Carr, president; C. D. Haugen, vice-president; M. T. Weikle, cashier; Oscar Peterson, assistant cashier. The deposits, according to the last statement issued by the bank, are $185,000, with a surplus of $7,000. The present capital, surplus and profits amount to $35,000. This bank is owned and managed by the business men and farmers of the immediate vicinity.

J. P. WALLACE STATE BANK OF PELICAN RAPIDS.

The J. P. Wallace State Bank is an outgrowth of the Bank of Pelican Rapids, which was organized on May 22, 1882, as a state bank by R. L. Frazee, L. E. Reed, J. P. Wallace, Hans Mickelson and Theodore Frazee. The first officers of the Bank of Pelican Rapids included R. L. Frazee, as president, and J. P. Wallace, as cashier.

The Bank of Pelican Rapids continued as a state bank until January 1, 1896, with a capital of $25,000. It was then reorganized as a private bank, under the name of J. P. Wallace Bank, and continued as such until August 15, 1904, when it was again reorganized as a state bank under the name of J. P. Wallace State Bank, with a capital of $10,000. The stock of the reorganized bank was at first all in the hands of J. P. Wallace, S. J. Wallace and F. J. Fletcher, all residents of Pelican Rapids.

The present officers of the bank are as follow: J. P. Wallace, president; R. W. Sherin, vice-president; Cecil W. Sherin, cashier, and O. P. Sether, assistant cashier. That the bank is a prosperous institution is shown by its deposits of $310,000 and surplus of $10,000. A savings department has been added to the bank and the last report gives this department of the bank deposits of $12,000. The success of the bank has been continued from the beginning due to its conservative methods of business.

PELICAN RAPIDS STATE BANK.

The Pelican Rapids State Bank was organized on December 13, 1912, with a capital stock of $10,000. The first stockholders of the bank were C. R. Frazee, P. C. Frazee, W. K. Frazee, H. E. Frazee, G. M. Mills, H. G. Page and J. A. Bjornstad. The first officers were C. R. Frazee, president; J. A. Bjornstad, cashier. The last statement shows that the bank is in a

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prosperous condition with deposits amounting to $106,580.63 and surplus and undivided profits of $5,514.13. The present officers are: C. R. Frazee, president; O. C. Arnquist, cashier; C. R. Frazee, O. C. Arnquist and P. C. Frazee, directors.

FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF BATTLE LAKE.

The First National Bank of Battle Lake was organized, June 21, 1907, with the following stockholders: F. R. McClellan, S. S. Petterson, Charles Keith, K. C. Hansen, E. J. Rudh, Henry Olson and O. T. Langen. The first three stockholders were residents of Princeton, Minnesota, and the last three of Battle Lake. The first officers were as follows: Henry Olson, president; O. T. Langen, vice-president; K. C. Hansen, cashier. These officers, with Charles Keith, F. R. McClellan and E. J. Rudh, constituted the first board of directors. This bank was an outgrowth of the Otter Tail County Bank, a private institution which had been in existence for several years, and which at the time of its absorption had less than $5,000 on deposit. The First National Bank was established with a capital stock of $25,000 and the bank is still operating with the same amount of capital. The deposits of the bank according to its last report, December 31, 1915, amounted to $244,160.06, with a surplus of $4,500. The bank is housed in its own building, which was erected at a cost of $10,000.

FIRST STATE BANK OF BATTLE LAKE.

The First State Bank of Battle Lake was first organized on January 1, 1884, as the Bank of Battle Lake. This bank was started by W. L. Winslow, as sole owner, with a capital stock of $5,000. In 1886 Winslow sold his bank to B. B. Warfield and its name was changed to Warfield's Bank. In 1901 W. L. Winslow purchased the bank of Warfield and it was then called Winslow's Bank. Through these different changes the capital stock of the bank remained the same. This bank was incorporated as the First State Bank of Battle Lake on May 15, 1905. The capital stock was placed at $15,000, divided into one hundred and fifty shares of one hundred dollars each. The names of the incorporators and original shareholders were as follow: W. L. Winslow, E. A. Everts, P. A. Aldridge, M. S. Jones and C. A. Carlson, all of Battle Lake. The government of the corporation and the management of its affairs is vested in a board of four directors. The first board of directors consisted of W. L. Winslow, E. A. Everts, P. A. Aldridge and M. S. Jones. The capital stock of the bank was reduced from $15,000 to $10,000 in 1907 or 1908 and has remained as such ever since. The last statement of the bank shows deposits of $112,000, with a surplus of $3,000. The present officers are: O. C. Boyum, president; T. M. Alexander, vice-president; E. C. Hopkins, cashier, and J. G. Peterson, assistant cashier. The directors are W. L. Winslow, T. M. Alexander, E. C. Hopkins, J. G.

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Peterson and O. C. Boyum. The present building was erected by the bank at a cost of $3,000 and furnished at a cost of $2,000.

FIRST NATIONAL BANK, HENNING.

The First National Bank of Henning was organized on August 1, 1903, with Isaac Hazlett, J. J. Meyers and F. B. Coon as stockholders. The bank still operates on its original capital of $25,000. The last report of the bank shows that it had deposits of $147,000, with a surplus of $5,000. The bank owns its own building, which is well equipped for modern baking. In June, 1905, the bank was consolidated with the State Bank of Henning. The present officers are as follow: Isaac Hazlett, president; J. J. Meyers, vice-president; R. R. Patterson, cashier; L. A. Johnson, assistant cashier.

FARMERS STATE BANK OF HENNING.

The Farmers State Bank of Henning was organized, May 15, 1906, with the following shareholders: R. J. Lindberg, G. A. Saetre, O. S. Johnson, John Hanson, John Post, Andrew Anderson, Alford Knutson, J. H. Whiting, A. A. Ballmont, Anton Belmont, Manley Johnson, Fred Von Ohlen, J. D. Lifquist, Syver Vinje, A. T. Nelson, Henry Hipple, Mrs. N. H. Nelson and W. E. Dickson. The original amount of capital stock was $10,000, divided into one hundred shares of one hundred dollars each. This stock may be increased from time to time by a majority vote of the stockholders, but not to exceed the sum of $50,000. The government of this corporation and the management of its affairs is vested in a board of five directors. The first board of directors consisted of the following: W. E. Dickson, R. J. Lindberg, G. A. Saetre, J. H. Whiting and Syver Vinje.

According to the last statement, the bank had deposits amounting to $147,089.55, with surplus and undivided profits of $3,318.65. The total liabilities of the bank amount to $160,408.20, and in addition to this amount there was listed as reserve on hand $25,584.73. The present officials of the bank are as follow: G. A. Saetre, president; Alford Knutson, vice-president; A. S. Paulsen, cashier; A. O. Saetre, assistant cashier; these gentlemen, with Andrew Anderson, J. H. Whiting and C. S. Johnson, comprising the board of directors.

FIRST NATIONAL BANK, PARKERS PRAIRIE.

The First National Bank of Parkers Prairie was established in May, 1903, with a capital stock of $25,000. The original stockholders were William A. Lancaster, Isaac Hazlett, R. L. Hardy, F. N. Carpenter, Charles Donnely and S. L. Frazer. The first three of these were the president, vice-president and cashier, respectively, and with the addition of Charles Donnely and F. N. Carpenter, made up the first board of directors. T. H. Hardy was the first assistant cashier. The last report of the bank, Decem-

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ber 31, 1915, showed deposits of $151,739.68 with a surplus of $7,500. The bank owns its own building, which stands on lots 1 and 2 in the Lakeview addition to the village. The present officers include the original president and vice-president; A. J. Campbell, second vice-president; E. V. Anderson, cashier; Ross Clarno, assistant cashier.

STATE BANK OF PARKERS PRAIRIE.

The State Bank of Parkers Prairie was organized, May 28, 1903, With a capital stock of $10,000, which has since been increased by $5,000. The incorporators of the bank were L. Redding, T. J. Dickson and W. E. Dickson, who served as president, vice-president and cashier, respectively. According to the last statement, the bank had deposits of $150,000, with a surplus of $3,500. The bank also operates a savings department, which it has found to be a very attractive feature. The building in which the bank conducts its business belongs to the corporation. It is located on lot 12, block 23, of the Lakeview addition to Parkers Prairie.

At the annual meeting of the stockholders and directors held February 15, 1916, it was decided to make a number of improvements for the benefit and convenience of the customers of the bank. These improvements will include a modern heating system and more modern and efficient electric lighting. The heating system will be extended into the office of the *Parkers Prairie Independent* and a new steel ceiling will be put in. The report of the officers for the past year showed that the bank had made a rapid growth and that its deposits had increased over $30,000 during the preceding six months. The following officers were elected at the annual meeting: John P. Post, president; Emil J. Sandeen, vice-president; C. H. Dahlstrom, cashier; T. J. Russell, assistant cashier; T. C. Newgard, second assistant cashier; John P. Post, E. J. Sandeen, J. F. Thoreen, Peter Manderfeld and Reuben G. Thoren, directors.

FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF PERHAM.

The First National Bank of Perham was organized in 1902 by capitalists from Iowa, and was secured by the present stockholders in January, 1910. The bank made a slow growth from the time of its organization until 1910, but since it has come under its present management its business has been increasing very rapidly. It now has a capital stock of $25,000, with deposits of $250,000, and surplus and undivided profits of $10,701.70.

The present officers are as follow: L. W. Oberhauser, president; M. J. Daly, vice-president; A. G. Schwarzrock, cashier. These three officers, together with John Kukowske and Frank Kukowske, constitute the present board of directors. The bank owns its own building a two-story brick structure, situated on Front street.

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STATE BANK OF PERHAM.

The State Bank of Perham was organized on March 23, 1908, and opened for business on the same day. The bank was the outgrowth of a private institution which had been in operation since 1892. The bank was reorganized as a state bank in 1908 by Fred L. Weber and M. A. Weber with a capital stock of $30,000. Fred L. Weber has been the president since the reorganization, M. A. Weber, vice-president, and J. H. Shea, cashier. The bank owns its own building, a one-story, pressed-brick structure, which is well equipped for modern banking purposes. The bank has had a prosperous career and its deposits of $440,000 testify to its strength as a financial institution. The last statement also shows a surplus of $12,000.

FIRST STATE BANK OF UNDERWOOD.

The First State Bank of Underwood was originally organized as a private bank in 1903 and was known as the Bank of Underwood. The original stockholders of the Bank of Underwood were C. D. Wright, F. G. Barrows, M. T. McMahon and E. A. Jewett.

The First State Bank of Underwood was organized, March 15, 1908, with the following incorporators: Charles D. Wright, F. G. Barrows, M. T. McMahon, E. A. Jewett and F. E. Solomonsen. Nils Wilson, K. K. Onstad, P. K. Onstad, C. J. Moen, M. J. Moen and E. S. Evenson were also stockholders. The original amount of capital stock of this corporation was $10,000 divided into one hundred shares of one hundred dollars each. This stock can be increased from time to time by a majority vote of stockholders, but not to exceed the sum of $25,000. The government of this corporation is vested in a board of five directors and consists of the following: Charles D. Wright, F. G. Barrows, M. T. McMahon, R. A. Jewett and F. E. Solomonsen.

The deposits of this bank as shown by the last statement for the year 1915 were $172,908.63 with a surplus of $9,000. The present officers are C. D. Wright, president; E. A. Jewett, vice-president; F. E. Solomonsen, cashier. The present bank building, which is the property of the bank, was erected in 1914 at a cost of $6,000.

FARMERS STATE BANK OF UNDERWOOD.

The Farmers State Bank of Underwood filed its articles of incorporation on November 8, 1915, and opened for business on January 3, 1916, in the room formerly used for the postoffice. The bank started with a capital stock of $12,000, which, according to its articles of incorporation, may be increased to $25,000. The original stockholders were E. S. Evenson, C. J. Moen, C. E. Olson, John Gronner, C. K. Pederson, O. C. Boyum and T. M. Alexander. The officers of the bank include the following: C. J. Moen,

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president; O. C. Boyum, vice-president; E. S. Evenson, cashier. The officers, together with C. E. Olson, T. M. Alexander, C. K. Pederson and John Gronner, constitute the board of directors. The bank now has deposits of $15,0000, with a surplus of $3,000.

FIRST STATE BANK OF NEW YORK MILLS.

The First State Bank of New York Mills was organized in 1903 as a private bank by W. R. and C. W. Baumbach, of Wadena. The officers of this bank were W. R. and C. W. Baumbach and E. J. Austin. It continued as such until May 1, 1908, when it was incorporated as a state bank. The stockholders of the newly incorporated bank were as follow: W. D. Merickel and A. J. Merickel, of Wadena, E. R. Rosser and A. J. Sitz, of New York Mills. The capital stock of the bank as fixed by the articles of incorporation was $10,000, which has never been changed. This is divided into one hundred shares of one hundred dollars each. The firm and conservative methods of this bank have placed it on an excellent basis. The last statement of the bank shows deposits amounting to $165,000, with a surplus of $8,000. The present officers of the bank are J. W. Jacobson, president; Felix Nyland, vice-president; Edward T. Olson, cashier; and Charles G. Hyry, assistant cashier.

FARMERS AND MERCHANTS BANK OF NEW YORK MILLS.

The Farmers and Merchants Bank of New York Mills was organized on November 23, 1915, and opened for business on January 17, 1916. The original capital stock of $12,000 was held by the following: John Perala, A. J. Sitz, A. E. Blomberg, I. K. Maki, Jonas M. Ojola and E. R. Rosser. The bank's quarters are now located in the R. A. Williams block, where it has installed the conveniences for modern banking. The present officers of the bank are as follow: A. J. Sitz, president; I. K. Maki, vice-president; E. R. Rosser, cashier, who with John Perala, E. A. Rousu and E. A. Blomberg, comprise the board of directors. The bank at the end of its first month of business had deposits of $25,000, and a surplus of $3,000.

FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF DEER CREEK.

The First National Bank of Deer Creek was organized on May 23, 1904, with the following members as first stockholders and organizers: L. W. Babcock, C. C. Haupt, John W. Mason, E. J. Webber, James A. Brown, A. D. Baker, Thomas N. McLeon, F. J. Evans, James G. Shontz, Frank B. Coon, Isaac Hazlett, J. J. Meyer, Paul E. Kenyon, D. A. Sommerfield, E. M. Jacobsen, E. M. Jacobsen, Richard Anderson, A. C. Johnson, Ida M. Anderson, O. J. Smith and Matt Nelson. The first officers were: E. J. Webber, President; L. W. Babcock, vice-president; A. D. Baker, cashier; H. J. Baker, assistant cashier. These officers and the following

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made up the board of directors: F. J. Evans, Charles C. Haupt, Isaac Hazlett and James A. Brown. The original capital stock was placed at $25,000 and has remained as such to the present time. The deposits according to the last statement of the bank, were $133,000 with a surplus of $7,000. The bank building is located on lot 1, block 2, Baker's addition to Deer Creek.

It is interesting to note that this bank was originally opened as a private bank and did business under the name of A. D. Baker & Co., Bankers. The present officers are: James A. Brown, president; A. P. Johnson, vice- president; A. D. Baker, cashier; E. F. Selvig, assistant cashier. The directors are: James A. Brown, Paul Kenyon, A. D. Baker, F. J. Evans, E. F. Selving, A. P. Johnson and H. E. Webber.

LUND'S STATE BANK OF VINING.

Lund's State Bank of Vining was originally organized as a private bank with a capital stock of $5,000. It was first opened for business in 1904 by A. T. Lund and his six sons. This was incorporated as a state bank, January 1, 1907, with a capital stock of $10,000. The capital stock can be increased from time to time by a majority vote of the stockholders. The names of the incorporators were: A. T. Lund, O. A. Lund, H. A. Lund, Charles A. Lund, A. T. Lund Jr., E. A. Lund, residents of Vining, and M. B. Lund, of Henning. The government of this bank and the managements of its affairs is vested in a board of three directors. The first board of directors serving this bank was: A. T. Lund, Sr., Charles A. Lund and A. T. Lund, Jr. The first officers of the bank were: A. T. Lund, Sr., president; A. T. Lund, Jr., vice-president; Charles A. Lund, cashier. The statement for the bank shows deposits for the present year amounting to $50,246.53, with a surplus of $2,000. The present officers are: A. T. Lund, Jr., president; O. A. Lund, vice-president; Charles A. Lund, cashier; T. S. Nyhus, assistant cashier. The present bank building was erected in 1913. This is a brick structure, finished in marble and mahogany, with double vaults on the ground floor and a storage vault in the basement.

FARMERS STATE BANK OF VERGAS.

The Farmers State Bank of Vergas was organized on June 15, 1904, with the following stockholders: L. W. Oberhauser, Charles W. Higley, James Nesbitt, Charles A. Peterson and B. Stangenes. The original amount of capital stock was placed at $5,000, but this was later increased to $10,000, and to $15,000 in January 1916. The government of this bank is vested in a board of three directors. The first directors and officers of the bank were as follow: L. W. Overhauser, president; Charles W. Higley, vice-president; and George M. Hopp, cashier. According to the last statement of this bank the deposits totalled $80,000, with a surplus of $2,000. The present officers

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are: L. W. Overhauser, president; Charles W. Higley, vice-president, and W. F. Ladwig, cashier. The bank owns its own building, which is located on Main street in the village of Vergas. This bank is associated with the Farmers State Bank of Dent, Farmers State Bank of Richville, First National Bank of Perham and the First National Bank of Frazee.

MERCHANTS STATE BANK OF ELIZABETH.

The Merchants State Bank of Elizabeth was incorporated on May 6, 1907, and opened for business on the 3rd of the following month. It started with a capital stock of $10,000, which was divided into a hundred shares of one hundred dollars each. The list of incorporators were as follow: Peter Maurin, Frank Grawns, Marcus Maurin, Syverin O. Sletwold, L. W. Bell, William Becker, B. Schroeder, O. C. Rian, W. S. Lee, all residents of Elizabeth, and G. R. Wedgewood, C. E. White and Charles Bradford, residents of Monticello. The government of this corporation and the management of its affairs is vested in a board of five directors, who are elected at the annual meeting of the stockholders, held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday of April. The first board of directors consisted of Peter Maurin, O. C. Rian, Charles Bradford, G. R. Wedgewood and Charles E. White. The bank owns its own building, which is located on lot 5, of block 2, in the village of Elizabeth. The last reports of the bank shows deposits of $173,134.85, with a surplus and undivided profits of $9,126.09. The present officers are as follow: O. C. Rian, president; L. D. Barcalow, cashier; Charles Bradford and O. C. Rian, directors.

FARMERS STATE BANK OF RICHVILLE.

The Famers State Bank of Richville was started as a private bank in September, 1904, by P. H. Jones, O. A. Zimmer and C. F. Franz, who were president, vice-president and cashier, respectively, of the bank. For three years the bank was in the hands of these owners, Jones and Zimmer disposing of their interests in 1907 to L. W. Oberhauser and others. The year following (February 15, 1908) the bank was reorganized as a state bank and commenced business the following month under a charter granted by the state. The present officers are as follow: L. W. Oberhauser, president; Charles W. Higley, vice-president; C. F. Franz, cashier; G. L. Brooks, assistant cashier. The last report of the bank shows deposits of $40,000, with a surplus of $2,000. The bank owns its own building.

FARMERS STATE BANK OF DENT.

The Farmers State Bank of Dent was incorporated on February 15, 1908, and opened for business on February 18. The original incorporators were: L. W. Oberhauser, Charles W. Higley and E. H. Essig. T. R. Daniel, Howard DeMott and D. Mackerchar were also in the list of the

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original stockholders, but were not included in the incorporation articles. The original amount of the capital stock of this corporation was $10,000, divided into one hundred shares of one hundred dollars each. The capital stock may be increased from time to time by a majority vote of stockholders, but not to exceed the sum of $50,000. The management of this corporation is vested in a board of three directors.

That the bank is in a prosperous condition is shown by the last statement which places the amount of deposits at $75,000 and a surplus of $2,000. The present officers are: L. W. Oberhauser, president; Charles W. Higley, vice-president, and Edward J. Stoll, cashier. The directors voted on January 19, 1916, to increase the capital stock from $10,000 to $15,000.

FIRST STATE BANK OF DALTON.

The First State Bank of Dalton was started as a private bank in 1903, and was called the Bank of Dalton. It was incorporated as a state bank on March 15, 1908, and started business under its new charter on April 6, of the following month. The following names appear on the incorporation articles of the State Bank charter: Charles D. Wright, F. G. Barrows, M. T. McMahon, E. A. Jewett and O. I. Brandvold, all of Fergus Falls. The amount of capital stock when incorporated in 1908 was $10,000, divided into one hundred shares of one hundred dollars each. The capital stock can be increased from time to time by a majority vote of the stockholders, but not to exceed $25,000. The highest amount of indebtedness or liability to which the bank shall at any time be subject is $200,000. The government of this corporation is vested in a board of five directors. The first board of directors consisted of the following members: C. D. Wright, F. G. Barrows, M. T. McMahon, E. A. Jewett and O. I. Brandvold.

The last statement shows deposits totalling $156,000, with a surplus of $8,000. The present officers are: F. G. Barrows, president; E. A. Jewett, vice-president, and Joseph P. Brendel, cashier. The bank building is located on lot S, block 2, in the village of Dalton. This is a brick structure, erected in 1914, at a cost of $7,000.

THE FIRST STATE BANK OF CLITHERALL.

The First State Bank of Clitherall was organized on January 1, 1908, and opened for business on the 22nd day of that month, with a capital stock of $10,000, which was divided into one hundred shares of one hundred dollars each. The names of the incorporators are as follow: Isaac Hazlett, Minneapolis; Ellen Clark, Clitherall; F. B. Coon, J. G. Howe, F. F. Latta, J. J. Meyer and W. E. Parker, all residents of Wadena. The first board of directors consisted of the original incorporators and the annual meetings of the stockholders are held on the second Monday of January. The capital

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stock may be increased from time to time by a majority vote of the stockholders, but not to exceed the sum of $25,000. The highest amount of indebtedness or liability to which the incorporation can any time be subject is $100,000. Isaac Hazlett was the first president of this bank and L. M. Clark, cashier.

At a meeting of the stockholders of the above-named bank, held at the banking house on January 23, 1913, a resolution was adopted to change section 4, which stated that there should be seven directors to read "not less than three or more than seven directors, the number to be determined by the stockholders at each annual meeting."

The bank is at present on a firm basis, as shown by the last statement, which places the deposits at $51,000 with a surplus of $2,000. The building in which the bank is located is the property of the bank. H. A. Gosslee is the present cashier.

SECURITY STATE BANK OF OTTER TAIL.

The Security State Bank of Otter Tail was organized on March 25, 1908, with the following incorporators: N. J. Schafer, W. A. Haugh and Henry Miller, these three men serving the bank as president, vice-president and cashier, respectively. The original amount of capital stock was $10,000, divided into one hundred shares of one hundred dollars each. This stock may be increased from time to time by a majority vote of the stockholders, but not to exceed the sum of $25,000. The government of the bank and the management of its affairs are vested in a board of three directors. The first board of directors consisted of N. J. Schafer, Henry Miller and W. A. Haugh. The present officers of the bank are N. J. Schafer, president; H. S. Frazer, vice-president, and Henry Miller, cashier. The last statement of the bank shows deposits amounting to $40,753.45, with a surplus of $20,000, and shows the prosperity of the bank at the present time.

THE STATE BANK OF BLUFFTON.

The State Bank of Bluffton was incorporated July 1, 1911, and opened for business on the second of the following month. The amount of capital stock of this bank was $12,000, which was divided into one hundred and twenty shares of one hundred dollars each. It was provided that the capital stock might be increased from time to time by a majority vote of the stockholders, but must not exceed the sum of $50,000. The names and places of residence of the incorporators were as follow: Charles Bradford, Monticello; C. E. White, Monticello; F. D. Bradford, Monticello; L. D. Thayer, Clarissa; J. A. Otte, Paul Hamkens, Bluffton; Anton Raykowske, Bluffton, and Bern Kluenenberg, Bluffton. The first board of directors consisted of the following members: L. D. Thayer, J. A. Otte, C. E. White, Charles

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Bradford and Paul Hamkens. The first officers were as follow: L. D. Thayer, president; F. Wiechmann, vice-president; J. A. Otte, cashier. The last report indicates that the bank has deposits of $50,000, with a surplus of $3,000. The bank owns the building in which it does business.

ERHARD STATE BANK.

The Erhard State Bank was organized on May 6, 1913, and was opened for business on the 9th day of August, 1913. The incorporators were: P. M. Knoff, A. O. Solum, M. I. Grina, John M. Vaglo, H. H. Knobel, Alex Sha, Ed Sha, I. O. Grina, Axel Knutson, K. D. Thompson, E. W. Leeper, E. M. Nelson and Edward Thompson, all residents of Erhard. Other stockholders were K. Stenerson and E. J. Ovri, Pelican Rapids; Robert Hannah, M. T. McMahon, Elmer E. Adams, C. W. Kaddatz and E. A. Jewett, Fergus Falls.

The original amount of capital stock was $10,000, divided into one hundred shares of one hundred dollars each. The capital stock may be increased from time to time by a majority vote of stockholders, but not to exceed the sum of $25,000. The highest amount of indebtedness or liability to which the corporation can at any time be subject is $120,000. The first officers were, E. A. Jewett, president; K. Stenerson, vice-president; H. H. Knobel, P. M. Knoff, Axel Knutson and Robert Hannah, directors; Edward Thompson, cashier. The present officers are the same as those at first, with the exception of I. O. Grina, who took the place of Robert Hannah on the board of directors. The deposits, according to the last statement of the bank, amount to $50,000, with a surplus of $2,000. The bank is located on its own lots (18 and 19), block 1, of the village of Erhard.

ALMORA STATE BANK.

The Almora State Bank was incorporated on March 28, 1914, and opened for business on the 8th of the following month. The incorporators were as follow: A. O. Netland and S. A. Netland, Northfield, Minnesota; G. C. Skeim and Ole A. Netland, Audubon, Minnesota; Ole P. Boyer, Detroit, Minnesota. The original capital stock was $10,000, divided into one hundred shares of one hundred dollars each. It was provided that the capital stock might be increased from time to time by a majority vote of stockholders, but not to exceed the sum of $25,000. The first officers and directors were A. O. Netland, S. A. Netland and G. C. Skeim. All of the stockholders of this bank are experienced in the banking business and the deposits for the present year show the firm basis of the bank's accounts. The last statement shows deposits of $35,550.69 with a surplus of $2,000. The building in which the bank is situated is located on lot 11, block 2, of the village of Almora and is the property of the bank. The building and its equipment cost $5,125, and makes very comfortable and commodious quarters for a bank.

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FARMERS STATE BANK OF CARLISLE.

The Farmers State Bank of Carlisle was organized on May 25, 1915, and opened for business on September 15, 1915, in their new building which had just been recently completed. The stock of the bank, divided into shares of one hundred dollars each, is divided among fifty people in the vicinity of Carlisle, Minnesota. The capital stock can be increased from time to time by a majority vote of the stockholders, but cannot exceed the sum of $25,000. The highest amount of indebtedness or liability to which the bank may at any time be subject is $120,000. The deposits of this bank, according to its last statement, were $32,000, with a surplus of $2,000. The first annual meeting of the stockholders, after the bank opened for business, was held October 6, 1915, and at that time the following were present: F. J. Evans, Peter Lokken, Albert Hexum, Henry Halvorson, Frank Fjestad, Henry G. Dahl, Ole Haug, H. P. Sethre, Peter Sethre, Casper Lein, John J. Sethre, Nels Hegseth, Carl A. Setheren, Chr. P. Sethre, Robert Lill, Wencel Lill, Chris Evjen, Theo. Fjestad, C. O. Kantrud, L. O. Linner, Martin Hexum, Nils Haagenson and Theodore Fossen.

The following stockholders were elected directors to serve until the first meeting in January: F. J. Evans, Fergus Falls; Peter Lokken, Carlisle; Henry G. Dahl, Fergus Falls; Albert Hexum, Carlisle; Frank Fjestad, Carlisle; Henry Haldorson, Carlisle, and Theodore Fossen, Carlisle. The officers elected were as follow: Henry G. Dahl, president; Frank Fjestad, vice-president, and Theodore Fossen, cashier. At the stockholders meeting held January 13, 1916, all the officers and directors were re-elected.

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CHAPTER XIX.

THE PRESS.

The first newspaper in Otter Tail county was established at Fergus Falls by Orange S. King and made its initial appearance on Saturday, April 15, 1871. Strange to say, the commissioners' records of March 14, 1871, printed in the first issue of the paper, state that the *Advocate* is "hereby appointed and constituted the official paper of Otter Tail county." This makes it appear that the paper had intended to start sometime prior to its actual appearance. The first issue contains advertisements and other reading matter printed in the Norwegian tongue and promises its Scandinavian readers that it will continue to print part of each issue in their language. The only file of this paper is in the possession of Hon. John W. Mason, who has one bound volume which contains practically all of the issues up to and including the issue of May 19, 1875. This is the best storehouse of information concerning the early history of the county. King came from Minneapolis and being a practical newspaper man made his paper a success from the start.

The second paper in the county was established at Otter Tail City in September, 1871. Only one copy of this paper is known to be in existence and it is bound in with four years' files of the *Fergus Falls Advocate* in the possession of Mr. Mason. This single issue of the *Otter Tail City Record*, as the paper was called, is dated Saturday, January 27, 1872, Vol. I, No. 22. If the paper had been published continuously from its establishment up to this date it would have been started during the first week in September, 1871. It has often been said that the *Record* was the first paper in the county, but this makes it certain that the *Fergus Falls Advocate,* which issued its first number April 15, 1871, was the pioneer sheet in the county. The *Record* was edited by W. F. Ball and owned by E. G. Holmes, a merchant of Otter Tail City. There is very little local news in this stray copy of the *Record*. Since this one issue of the paper is only one extant, it seems pertinent to give the substance of its contents in order to show the importance of the "city" at that time. A summary of its advertisers is first noted. General merchandise, England & Johnson, who have the "most extensive and commodious establishment that can be found in the northwest." Furthermore, this firm, in their full column advertisement says that, among other things, they have a complete line of "groceries, dry goods, provisions, boots, and shoes, findings, paints, oils, cook and heating stoves, nails, iron, sash, window glass, doors, all kinds of furniture, plows, crock-

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ery ware, tin ware, glass ware, wooden ware and wares of all kinds." L. D. Dagget had a drug store in the postoffice building and was also agent for the Howe sewing machine. There were three flourishing hotels. Thatcher Stone had a newly furnished house with "clean beds and comfortable rooms." The St. Paul House, with H. Houde as proprietor, claims that he "is now prepared to accommodate the traveling public in a manner not to be surpassed north or west of St. Paul." William McArthur, proprietor of the City Hotel, evidently operated a saloon in the rear of his hostelry. A meat market was in charge of M. Anderson. A brewery had just been opened by Joseph Barrett and he imparts the information in his advertisement that he is now "prepared to supply all those desirous of purchasing with as good beer as can be found in the state, by the keg, barrel or load." S. Whitney announces himself as proprietor of the billiard hall, and also admits that he carries a full line of "wines, liquors and cigars—call and sample my stock." But the advertisement which demands special attention is that of E. G. Holmes, proprietor of the Northwestern Store. Holmes was the Wanamaker of the "City," and his store, to judge from his advertisement, carried more goods than any store in Otter Tail county today. In the opening of his advertisement he says that he would again "inform his friends and the balance of mankind that he is still at the old stand, where he is daily supplying his customers with every description of merchandise." Furthermore, he says that he has corresponded with all the wholesale houses in the east and that he now has "every classification of luxury and necessity," but he adds that "in the calling attention to a mammoth outfitting depot like this it is impossible to classify and specify the wares in their proper order." Then followed a description of some of the goods, the advertisement closing by saying that he carries "the best samples of wines, liquors and cigars." Thomas Conroy informs the citizens of Otter Tail City that he will undertake to do all kinds of blacksmithing, and F. A. Mutschler declares himself in the same line of business at Rush Lake. J. Berns & Veifert carry an advertisement to the effect that at Rush Lake they manufactured, during the past season, over one hundred thousand brick, and that they are now selling brick at ten dollars and fifty cents per thousand. The rest of the advertisements in this *Otter Tail City Record* of January 27, 1872, consist of the professional cards of the following: W. F. Ball, Reynolds & Nelson, E. E. Corliss and G. W. Holland, all attorneys and counsellors-at-law. Some prices in Otter Tail City at this time might be interesting. Butter was worth twenty-five cents a pound, corn ninety cents, barley sixty-five cents, oats sixty-five cents, wheat one dollar and twenty-five cents, potatoes sixty cents, hardwood two dollars and seventy-five cents a cord. L. D. Dagget was postmaster of the city and received mail from the east on Sun-

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days, Wednesdays and Fridays via Brandon; eastern mail via Osakias, every Thursday; Rush Lake mail came on Friday, and White Earth mail on Thursday of each week. The *Advocate* and the *Record* had the field to themselves until 1873, although it is unodubtedly true that the *Record* had disappeared from Otter Tail City before that time.

The second paper established in the county seat was the *Fergus Falls Journal*, which made its initial appearance in 1873 with Adoniram Judson Underwood as owner and editor. This paper has continued under this name down to the present time and with but one change of management. Underwood retired from the paper in the middle of the eighties and Elmer E. Adams, who came to the *Journal* from the *Telegram* in the spring of 1885, became the editor. The plant of the *Journal* was later taken over by the present Fergus Printing and Publishing Company. During its career of forty-three years the *Journal* has seen more nearly two dozen papers come and go in Fergus Falls with several of these it has been connected in some way. Mention of these papers will be made in connection with their separate accounts to follow.

Between 1873 and 1880 the *Journal* and *Advocate*, the two rival papers of Fergus Falls, were the only newspapers in the county seat. The *Perham News* (1874) and *Perham Independent* (1877) are the only other papers in the county noted during this period. The *Advocate* was sold by its owner, O. S. King, to J. S. Brocklehurst about the middle of the seventies, and the latter operated it until 1881. At that times Charles J. Sawbridge, who had learned the printer's trade in Alexandria, bought the *Advocate* and tried to improve its waning fortunes by rechristening it the *Independent*. But its change of name did not enhance its prosperity and before the end of that year Sawbridge sold a half interest in the paper to Rev. Peter Claire, a Methodist minister. The following year Claire became the sole owner of the paper, but it was doomed to failure. In the spring of 1883 it was suspended, and its owner, Claire, bought an interest in the *Telegram* of which he became the business manager. The *Independent* office seems to have been taken over by Brocklehurst in 1883 after Claire went to the *Telegram* and used by him to run a small job printery.

A number of papers were born in the eighties and practically all of them were the outgrowth of political campaigns. Some time in 1880 John Schroeder, a well educated Norwegian and at that time clerk of the district court, started the first Norwegian paper in the county. It bore the name of the *Normanna Banner*, but because it could not get sufficient advertising it was not long before its owner suspended its publication. The plant lay idle for a time and it seems that A. J. Underwood, the editor of the *Journal*, got control of the plant in some way during 1880 or 1881. It seems certain

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that in 1881 another Norwegian paper was started by A. K. Teisberg under the name of the *Ugebald*. This was printed with the outfit of the defunct *Normanna Banner*. Being printed in the Norwegian language, its circulation was largely limited to people of that nationality, although it numbered some Swedes and Danes among its subscribers. Teisberg was a candidate for clerk of the district court in 1884 against Charles J. Wright, and the exigencies of the time brought about the downfall of Teisberg as editor of the *Ugeblad* and the installation of Anfin Solem as editor. The history of the deposition of Teisberg from the paper is a part of the political history of the county. Wright was a regular candidate of the Republican party and Teisberg, who had failed to get the nomination in convention, came out as an independent candidate after Wright had refused to promise him a place as deputy in the office. Wright, having promised the position of deputy to another man, and feeling that Teisburg might be able to cause him some trouble, associated two of his friends, A. Levorson and B. N. Johnson, with him and and furnished the capital for A. Solem to acquire the paper. As soon as Solem became owner he removed Teisberg as editor and the paper became a Wright organ during the remainder of the campaign. It is needless to say that Wright was elected. Solem continued as owner and editor of the paper until 1909, when ill health compelled him to dispose of it to a company headed by Ole P. B. Jacobson. Mr. Jacobson became the editor and continued in this capacity until 1912, when the present editor, N. T. Moen, took charge. Mr. Jacobson, who is now a member of the board of railroad and warehouse commission of the state, is the largest stockholder in the company and has been president of it since it was organized in 1909. The paper is Republican in politics and has always stood for county option and all reform measures. It has always been a successful paper from a financial standpoint, although its subscription price is only fifty cents a year. It now has a circulation of about thirty-five hundred.

Another Norwegian paper in Fergus Falls, which has long since disappeared, was the *Rodhuggeren*. It was established in the fall of 1893 by Torkel Oftelie and Ole Hagen of Crookston. Hagen bought the equipment of a defunct paper at Crookston, brought it to Fergus Falls, and Mr. Oftelie bought what was necessary to complete the printing plant. From this small beginning soon grew the strongest Populist paper in northern Minnesota. The title of the paper, *Rodhuggeren*, signifies the "chopper" or one who digs out stumps or roots. The paper espoused the principles of the Populist party and was a success from the start. Both its editors were radical writers and especially Hagen, who wrote most of the editorials. The paper was outspoken in its advocacy of the tenets of Populism. It was established at the time when this party was in the ascendancy in this part

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of the state and in a few months the subscription list was increased from a few hundred to four thousand. In 1895 the owners of the *Rodhuggeren* bought the *Samhold* of Elbow Lake and merged it into the *Rodhuggeren.* About this time I. H. Ulsaaker was added to the company as part owner. Finally, in the spring of 1898, the paper was moved to Fargo, and, as subsequent events proved, this was a mistake on the part of the owners. They had a complete printing establishment in Fergus Falls, no debts and a paper with more than four thousand subscribers. The only trouble lay in the fact that they could get very little advertising. Upon moving to Fargo, the *Rodhuggeren* was consolidated with two Norwegian papers, *The Dakota* and *Fjerde Juli,* the consolidation of the three resulting in a new sheet known as the *Fram* (meaning forward). In Fargo there was more advertising, but the expenses were so much heavier than in Fergus Falls that the paper ran into debt and, like many other papers in Fargo, it went under the hammer. Hagen died in 1910.

After the *Rodhuggeren* moved to Fargo, Haldor E. Boen, who had always taken a great interest in the paper, decided to start another paper with the same name in Fergus Falls. This he did and it was commonly known as the *Rodhuggeren child.* . It was printed in the office of the *Fergus Globe,* but did not live more than a year. Since 1907 Mr. Oftelie has been the historian of the *Telelag,* a national organization of the Telemarkings in America, and serves as editor of the *Telesoga,* a quarterly magazine devoted to the history, biographies and reminiscences of the Telemarkings in America. The magazine varies in size from thirty to eighty pages, and has a circulation of about two thousand. The magazine, now published in Minneapolis, is in its seventh year, the March, 1916, number being the twenty-seventh issued. The *Telesoga* was published in Fergus Falls during the first year of its existence (1909) and then moved to Fargo, where it was issued until 1914. Since that time it has been published in Minneapolis.

In 1898, immediately after the *Rodhuggeren* was moved to Fargo, E. Mellem, a professor in Park Region College, established another Norwegian paper in Fergus Falls called the *Red River Tidende.* He had bought the outfit in Crookston from Reverend Johnson, at one time an internal revenue collector. The paper was Republican in politics, but this fact did not save it from failure. It ran a more or less precarious existence for about two years, when it suspended, causing its owners to lose all they had invested in it.

In the fall of 1882 C. F. Kindred established a Norwegian paper in Fergus Falls to further his candidacy for congress against Knute Nelson. This paper bore the Norwegian title of *Fremad,* which being translated

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means "forward," but it lasted only until after the campaign was over. Kindred had no further interest in the paper than to influence the Norwegians in his fight against Nelson and as soon as the election was over he withdrew his support from the sheet. He placed Herman Shol in charge of it upon its establishment, but as soon as the campaign was over Kindred sold it to John Strass. The latter conducted it only a short time in Fergus Falls and then moved it to Sioux Falls, South Dakota, where he is still issuing the paper under the same name.

The *Fergus Falls Daily Telegram*, the first daily paper in the county, made its appearance in September, 1882, with Smith Bagg Hall as editor, and Harry M. Wheelock as business manager. Both of these young men had been employed on the *St. Paul Globe* prior to taking charge of the new daily in Fergus Falls. H. P. Hall established the paper with capital furnished by C. F. Kindred, of Brainerd, who at that time was a candidate for congress in this district against Knute Nelson. H. P. Hall was at this time the editor of the *St. Paul Globe* and firmly believed that Kindred had a chance to defeat Nelson, and especially if he had a paper to boost his candidacy. A few weeks after the daily was started a weekly issue was commenced, and both the daily and weekly continued to come from the press until the paper was absorbed by the *Fergus Falls Journal* in 1885. During the few weeks before the election the paper devoted its whole energy to the candidacy of Kindred, who, it was said at the time, furnished H. P. Hall ten thousand dollars to establish the paper, with the understanding, of course, that it was to be for Kindred first, last and all the time in his fight against Nelson. The November election proved that Kindred had wasted his money; Nelson overwhelmingly defeated him. With his defeat, Kindred naturally lost interest in the paper and the result was that it was soon in sore straits. It is said that its operating expenses far exceeded its income and that Kindred had to write a good sized check each week to keep the paper afloat. In the early spring of 1883 L. L. Baxter and H. E. Rawson, a law firm of the city, bought a third interest in the *Telegram* for one thousand dollars. At this time a job printing department was installed and C. L. Baxter, a son of L. L. Baxter, was placed in charge of the new department. In reality, however, young Baxter was sort of a general manager, although this fact was not known to the reading public. For two years the *Telegram* experienced many ups and downs, more particularly the latter, and during this time several different men were connected with it. In 1883 Mr. Wheelock retired from the paper and joined Capt. James D. Wood in the establishment of the *Weekly Democrat*, the first issue of which appeared on December 6, 1883. But Democrats were few and far between in Otter Tail county in 1883 and, as subsequent events proved, they were fewer and farther between

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than the new editors had figured on. The result was the abandonment in 1884 of the Democratic sheet, which, by the way, was printed on the press of the *Journal,* a Republican paper. There is no reason to think that this, however, had anything to do with the passing of the *Weekly Democrat;* even in those days the same ink and type was used for printing papers of both political beliefs.

It is necessary to digress from the account of the *Telegram* at this point to speak of the entrance of a new factor in the newspaper history of Fergus Falls. In July, 1883, A. J. Underwood, who had established the *Weekly Journal* in 1873, started a daily edition of his paper and it was but a short time until it was evident that the city could not support two daily papers. The fortunes of the *Telegram* became more wavering as the *Daily Journal* increased its circulation.

When Mr. Wheelock retired as manager of the *Telegram* in 1883, Peter Claire, who had been running the *Independent,* the successor of the *Advocate,* suspended his paper and bought a third interest in the *Telegram,* at the same time becoming its manager. Claire, however, did not have any more success with the *Telegram* than he did with his *Independent,* and in a few weeks he was ready to retire and turn the burden over to someone else. A. C. Bunyon next attempted to manage the paper, but his success was no more pronounced than his several predecessors. Smith Bagg Hall continued as editor from the time the paper was started in the fall of 1882 until February, 1884, when Elmer E. Adams, who had just graduated from the University of Minnesota, took charge of the paper. Mr. Adams bought an interest in the paper with the assistance of the George B. Wright estate, C. D. Wright, J. W. Griffin and Samuel Hill. The new management did not succeed in improving the fortunes of the *Telegram,* and within a year the new owners were ready to discontinue the paper. It was at this juncture that the owners of the *Telegram* and *Journal* agreed to consolidate, the *Telegram* buying a half interest in the *Journal* for a thousand dollars. Underwood, the owner of the *Journal,* retained the other half interest, while Henry G. Page was given one share and endowed with the powers of chief arbiter in case any differences should arise between the owners. Underwood continued as editor of the *Journal* and Adams became the business manager. Thus passed out of existence the *Telegram,* the first daily paper established in Otter Tail county.

Another paper to appear in the eighties was the *Otter Tail County Farmer,* which sprang into existence full-grown, Minerva fashion, from the brain of George W. Boyington, then filling the office of register of deeds. Thirty years have passed since Boyington launched his sheet with the agricultural heading and opinions as to why he ventured into the undertaking

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are no less well defined today than they were at that time. Boyington was a wealthy farmer with a consuming ambition to engage in politics and the best evidence points to this desire on his part as the real reason for the establishment of the *Otter Tail County Farmer*. Starting the paper during the boom days of the early eighties, he continued it for a few years without ever making a real newspaper out of it. If he had any political ambitions beyond holding the office of register of deeds his paper was not able to help him to gratify them. He held his office from 1878 to 1889 and during one year at least (1886) his paper was the official paper of the county. Harry Brocklehurst was connected with the paper for a time as its editor. Boyington did a large amount of job printing, especially of official blanks, and if his paper made any return at all on the investment it was from this source. For some time he printed the paper in the brick building on Court street, on the north bank of Red river, then owned by Harrison & Bears. About the first of September, 1888, James A. Nowell, of the *St. Paul Globe*, at the suggestion of the Democratic state committee, took charge of the *Otter Tail County Farmer* and operated it until about the middle of the following December, when he disposed of it to the *Journal*. In the fall of 1888 the Democratic party was well united in the state and it was thought there was a good chance to elect Cleveland for President, E. M. Wilson for governor and Charles Canning, of Norman county, for Congress. It was to further the candidacies of these three men that Mr. Nowell took charge of the *Otter Tail County Farmer*. Shortly after taking charge of the paper, Mr. Nowell started to issue a daily edition under the name of *Daily Farmer* in order to compete with the *Daily Journal*, and continued issuing both the weekly and daily until the middle of December following.

The *Fergus Globe* was established November 19, 1887, by E. S. Lambert and F. E. Salvage. Later, Salvage disposed of his interest to Lambert, who continued it alone until 1895, when he sold it to H. E. Boen, who had just retired from Congress. Up to that time the paper had been Republican in politics, but when Boen secured control of it he started it on the road to Populism. It followed the vagaries of that party through thick and thin and when the party became too thin its owner took up socialism.

In the spring of 1910 Boen turned the management of his paper over to O. J. Arness, of Minneapolis, who was of decided socialistic tendencies. The *Globe* had been leaning toward socialism, and Arness made it a full-fledged organ of the party. Shortly after becoming its managing editor, Arness proposed to Boen to buy the *Globe* and the owner agreed to take three thousand dollars for the plant. Arness attempted to raise the money by forming a company and selling stock, but failed to secure the necessary

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support among his socialist brethren in the county. The deal fell through when Arness found that Boen had misled him in regard to the subscription list, and he at once withdrew and made preparations to start a paper of his own. Shortly after Arness withdrew from the *Globe*, that paper suspended, its owner, Boen, being physically unabe to manage the sheet himself, Arness started his newspaper under the name of the *Minnesota Socialist*.

The *Minnesota Socialist* made its initial appearance in Fergus Falls, December 15, 1910, with O. J. Arness as editor. According to the editorial page of its first issue, its publishers were the "Producers Publishing Company," but it is not known who the stockholders were. The fact that the socialist candidate for Congress received 1,248 votes in November, 1910, may be one reason why the paper was started in the county at this time. The paper was published in the shop building on Mill street in the same room with the Fergus Falls Blank Book Manufacturing Company. The latter company was in charge of Herman Thode, who, however, had no official connection or otherwise, with the *Socialist*. The paper continued to come from the press until the summer of 1911, when it was discontinued for lack of support. The plant was removed from Fergus Falls and taken to Grand Forks, North Dakota, but local subscribers in Fergus Falls received no issue of the paper after it left the city.

The *Free Press* made its bow to the public September 21, 1900, with C. J. Sawbridge as editor, A. C. Thomas, manager, and the Free Press Publishing Company as owners. The paper continued under this name until November 29, 1901, when its name was changed to the *Fergus Falls Free Press*, by which name it has since been known. The paper espoused the cause of the Populist party at the start and so continued until it changed owners in 1902. On March 7, 1902, the paper passed into the hands of J. G. Morrison, then pastor of the Grace M. E. church of Fergus Falls, and J. G. Durrell, an old newspaper man in the city. The new owners struggled with the paper for nearly four months, but the issue of June 27, 1902, again carries the name of C. J. Sawbridge as editor and informs its readers that it has returned to its former management. Mr. Sawbridge continued as editor until June 21, 1906, when the paper passed into the hands of a stock company composed of the following: Leonard Eriksson, president; John O. Johnson, vice-president; Enos M. Ricker, secretary; F. R. Schweitzer, treasurer. Mr. Ricker was installed as editor, and the same issue informs the public that the new company is to be known as the Johnson-Ricker Company as soon as the proper incorporation articles could be filed. The new company had charge of the paper about six months but evidently were not able to make it a financial success. The issue of May 3, 1907, contains the announcement that Martin W. Odland, who had bought the paper in the

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previous January, would supplant Mr. Ricker as editor. Since that date Mr. Odland has been the sole owner and editor of the paper. Future generations may hear old residents say that the *Free Press* once issued a daily and in order that this fact may be definitely established the facts may be thus briefly set down. The *Daily Free Press*, with Martin W. Odland as editor, was published without interruption from November 9, 1909, to July 7, 1910, a total of two hundred one issues coming from the press. The plant of the paper is located on the south bank of the Red river on Mill street.

Wheelock's Weekly was established by Harry M. Wheelock and made its initial appearance with its issue of September 19, 1895. Mr. Wheelock learned the newspaper trade in the state of New York and later located in St. Paul, where he was working on the old *St. Paul Globe* when he came to Fergus Falls in 1882 to join the staff of the *Daily Telegram*. Mr. Wheelock was with the *Telegram* until 1883, and then assisted Capt. J. D. Wood in the founding of the *Weekly Democrat*. When this paper was discontinued the following year he became associated with the *Daily Journal* and was with this paper until he established his own in 1895. On March 17, 1913, Mr. Wheelock took G. C. Mantor in with him, under the firm name of Wheelock & Mantor.

At least five other papers have appeared in Fergus Falls only to disappear. One of these, bearing the welcoming title of the *Saturday Morning Visitor*, was a fly-by-night sheet which came and went about the middle of the nineties and made such a faint impression upon the reading public that little is known of the paper other than its name and not even that much information has been preserved of its progenitor. It was like the grasshopper of former years, which came from parts unknown and disappeared to regions of the same kind.

Another ephemeral sheet was unfurled by C. J. Sawbridge in 1914, flying at its mast head the broad title of the *Park Region Review*. It was published at Fergus Falls, printed at Wadena each Saturday and distributed by carriers in Fergus Falls each Sunday morning. A sharp lull in the wind soon caused this breezy sheet to be hauled down after it had issued four numbers.

The *Morning Index*, a daily paper, was launched in 1905 by Vincent Comstock and led a checkered career for about three months. It represents a class of papers in Fergus Falls which have been for political purposes only; when their sponsors lose enough money in their respective adventures to ease their political wrath, they cease publication. It attained a nominal circulation of one thousand during its brief career. It was published in the

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building now occupied by the *Fergus Falls Press*, on a press which had formerly seen service in the *Globe* office.

It is not a matter of general information that Fergus Falls once boasted of a paper which appeared only on Sunday morning. In December, 1883, S. C. Harris placed before a Sabbath-loving public a sheet bearing the descriptive title of the *Every Sunday Morning*, which, according to one of its contemporaries, the *Journal*, "gives promise of being a spicy and readable adjunct to the press of the city." No copies of this paper seem to have been preserved and it is not known whether it measured up to this promise or not. Another reference to it in the *Journal* stated that it was a society and church paper. While its birth is duly recorded by the *Journal* nothing farther is known of it; its death and funeral evidently private.

In these days, when the cry of preparedness is being heard throughout the land, it is gratifying to note that Fergus Falls once had a militia company which owned, edited, distributed and read a newspaper which bore the cognomen *The Gopher*. Back in the eighties, when politics, militarism and other fads were seeking expression through the press, Company F of the Minnesota National Guard, proposed to issue a weekly paper. This sheet was under the editorial management of Clifford L. Hilton, now assistant attorney-general of Minnesota, while its management was intrusted to A. Leverson, now deputy clerk of the United States district court in Fergus Falls. Probably the most unique feature of this military sheet was the manner in which it was printed. Levorson printed the whole issue on a typewriter and then made mimeograph copies for the subscribers, about two hundred in number. The paper was not sufficiently remunerative to justify its continued existence and after coming from the typewriter for three or four times it ceased publication. Thus came to an end *The Gopher* in Fergus Falls. Some time afterwards the University of Minnesota began publishing a paper by the same name and the proprietors of *The Gopher* in Fergus Falls have always claimed that the university got the idea from their paper.

The newspaper history of Fergus Falls and Otter Tail county would not be complete without specific mention of the *Vanguard*, a small folio sheet which was issued only ten times, but which caused more discussion in the county than any other paper for the length of time it was being issued. Undoubtedly it was the most unique newspaper ever published in Otter Tail county or in the state of Minnesota; this paper issued during the campaign of 1874. It bore the name of *Vanguard*, and, according to its initial issue of September 8, 1874, it intended to "Hew to the line, let the chips fall where they may." In the seventies politics were taken more seriously than at the present time and the press during campaign years printed material which, in its more sober moments, would have been relegated to the waste

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basket. More than forty years have passed since the ten numbers of the *Vanguard* came off the press of the *Fergus Falls Journal*, and very few of those who figured in its columns are now living. It was a hot political campaign; there appears to have been the usual so-called ring; there also appears the crowd who wants to establish another ring; so it has always been and so will it always be—those who are *out* want *in*, and no doubt those *in* often would rather be *out*. It is not for us of the present day to pass judgment on our fathers of two score years ago. It was out of the 1874 campaign that the *Vanguard* was born and "Published by the Anti-Monopoly Committee of Otter Tail County." The excuse for this unique sheet may be seen in its salutatory: "Today we launch our little monitor, *The Vanguard*, upon the political waters of Otter Tail county, laden with a cargo of truths for the people." The ostensible purpose of the *Vanguard* was to advocate the candidacies of Henry G. Page for the state Senate, R. L. Frazee and Iver Christiansen for the lower house of the Legislature, and D. P. Hatch for county attorney as against the candidacies of Ole Jorgens for the Senate, Soren Listoe and I. W. Chambers for the lower House, and E. E. Corliss for county attorney. The candidates of the *Vanguard* were all elected on November 3, 1874, and the stanch little sheet which had been so prominent a factor in the victory takes leave of the public by saying that "This is the last issue (November 7, 1874) of the *Vanguard* in 1874, and in this we bid goodbye for the present to our readers and friends, taking this occasion to assure them that in the future should circumstances require, out little sheet will be promptly published." The paper ran about a thousand copies to the issue and was distributed free of cost—"without money and without price. Like salvation, it has been free." The *Vanguard* issued one number in 1875 (April 6), but this issue pertained solely to local affairs in Fergus Falls. About the most important fact mentioned in this last issue of the paper was the statement of the expenses of the village for 1873 and 1874, the expenses for the former year being $656.02 and for the latter $272.56. With this issue of April 6, 1875, the *Vanguard* made its last appearance; its work was done. As it says, "We have fought the fight."

There have been more papers published in Fergus Falls than in all other towns in the county together. There have been papers published at various times in Battle Lake, Henning, New York Mills, Parkers Prairie, Perham, Pelican Rapids, Richville, Deer Creek, Otter Tail City, Ottertail and Bluffton. An effort has been made to secure a history of all of these papers, but in many cases no copies have been found of discontinued papers and their owners and editors have disappeared as completely as have the products of their presses. Most of the papers of the smaller villages of the county are devoted primarily to the news of the village and the immediate

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vicinity. Unfortunately, the editors of some of the papers in the county have not responded to the request for information and in some cases have given such meager data that it has been impossible to prepare a complete history of the papers.

The *Battle Lake Review* was established by Bronson Strain and made its first appearance with the issue of May 19, 1884. It was on this same day that the Otter Tail County Farmers' Alliance was organized by Charles Lane, John B. Hompe, N. E. Nelson, Haldor E. Boen and a few others. Strain was succeeded by Harvey Johnson, who was followed by his brother, W. L. Johnson. The paper still continues under the same name.

The first paper to appear in Perham was the *Perham News,* which was announced as being just out by the *Fergus Falls Advocate* in its issue of July 29, 1874. X. S. Burke was the owner and editor and averred that he intended to run a Republican paper. It is not known how long this paper was published.

The *Perham Independent* appeared on the newspaper horizon of Otter Tail county with the issue of May 2, 1877. Its editor and publisher, Frank M. Geoghegan, thought it necessary to offer his readers the formal salutation which the initial issue of papers usually contains. He informs his readers that the paper is independent in politics and that "we reserve to ourselves the inalienable right to support the man and not the party." He also makes a special promise to pay particular attention to farming. The paper started out as a six-column folio, but the whole of the first issue has only five columns of local news, the remainder being plate material. .

The *Pelican Rapids Press* was established in 1897 by C. Cranston, but no less than seven different owners had charge of the paper between the time of its founding and 1908, when the present editor, E. L. Peterson, acquired it. The early newspaper history of Pelican Rapids is shrouded in more or less mystery, but it is certain that one Rathbun established the first paper. Early sheets in the village bore the significant names of *Pioneer* and *Rustler,* but definite information concerning these first papers has not been ascertained. The *Press* is a Republican paper and is devoted primarily to local news and advertising. It has a circulation of eight hundred, most of which is in the village and immediate community.

The *Henning Advocate* was established in March, 1891, although it was then known as the *Alliance Advocate.* Frank Hoskins was the editor of the *Alliance Advocate* during most of its career, and gave the paper more than a local reputation while he was in charge of it. During the first five years of its existence the paper labored under difficulties and no less than half a dozen editors tried to make a success of it. The present editor, Manley Johnson, has been at the helm for about twenty years, which is sufficient

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evidence that he has made a success of it. The plant is well equipped for newspaper and general job work, and has a Cottrell cylinder press and two modern job printing presses. The paper is Democratic in politics. The circulation is six hundred and fifty.

The *Parkers Prairie Independent* was established by J. C. Simpson on April 11, 1902. Simpson died shortly after the paper was started and the plant was then sold to Meyers & Branham, who, in turn, disposed of it to P. L. English. The latter sold it to R. S. Meyers, the present owner, in May, 1910. The office of the paper is in the basement of the State Bank of Parkers Prairie. The paper is Republican in politics and has a circulation of six hundred and fifty. The plant is well equipped with presses, a typesetting machine run by electric motor and all the necessary equipment for a successful paper in a village of this size.

The *Uusi Kotimaa*, published at New York Mills, was established at Minneapolis in September, 1881, and removed to New York Mills in 1884, where it has since been published. It is published in the Finnish lnaguage and is one of the most prominent papers of this language in the United States. At one time it had a larger circulation than any Finnish paper in the whole country outside of Chicago. The circulation at the present time is seventy-five hundred and fifty. The present editors and publishers are J. W. Lahde and Felix Nylund. The plant is equipped with a Miehle press and linotype machine. In politics the paper is independent Republican.

Other papers of the county now in existence are the following: *Perham Enterprise-Bulletin* and *Deer Creek Mirror*. Among other discontinued papers which have not been mentioned in the discussion of the various papers of the county may be mentioned the *Richville Leader*, the *Pelican Rapids Sentinel*, the *Pelican Rapids Times* and the *Bluffton Enterprise*. The latter sheet was running in 1883, with B. F. McKay as owner and editor, but suspended in October of that year.

LEGAL NEWSPAPERS OF OTTER TAIL COUNTY.

An act of the Legislature, passed in 1893, defined a legal newspaper as one having a bona fide circulation of two hundred and forty and a continuous existence of at least one year. Papers fulfilling these qualifications are designated as "legal" and entitled to bid on county printing, publish official notices or do job printing of any kind for the county. Since this law went into effect the following papers in Otter Tail county have qualified as legal newspapers. (The dates are those on which the papers filed their statement of legality with the county auditor): Fergus Falls Weekly Journal, April 29, 1893; Fergus Falls Daily Journal, April 29, 1893; Perham Bulletin, April 29, 1893; Fergus Falls Ugeblad, May 3, 1893; Fergus Globe, May 6, 1893; New York Mills Uusi Kotimaa, May 15, 1893; Battle Lake Review,

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January 9, 1896; Wheelock's Weekly, September 14, 1896; Henning Advocate, January 8, 1897; Pelican Rapids Press, April 4, 1898; Fergus Falls Free Press, September 23, 1901; Perham Enterprise, December 17, 1901; Parkers Prairie Independent, April 6, 1903; Richville Leader, October 23, 1905; Deer Creek Mirror, November 13, 1906; Pelican Rapids Press, March 15, 1909.

All of these papers are still (1910) being published with the exception of the *Fergus Globe* and *Richville Leader*. The two Perham papers and the *Richville Leader* are now consolidated as the *Perham Enterprise-Bulletin*. The *Leader* was bought by the *Enterprise* in 1909 and the *Enterprise* later bought the *Bulletin* after the death of its editor and owner, L. E. Davidson.

THE AMENITIES OF THE PRESS.

Custom, habit and character change with the years. As the rigidity and intolerance of the Puritans of New England softened and ameliorated with time, so the press of the frontier has been subject to the same humanizing spirit, indicative of more civilizing tendencies, as the mental and moral horizon grows broader; as enlightenment expands, and brotherly love supplants brotherly hate. This spirit has gradually worked its way, silently and persistently until now the editors of Otter Tail county are reasonably pacific, and speak as they pass each other. The present conciliatory *modus vivendi* existing among the editorial fraternity gives no hint of early conditions; and a statement, unaccompanied with authorities, as to the early belligerency of the pioneer editors would be discredited. To meet such skepticism it is deemed wise to give herewith some extracts from the early journals, illustrative of the amenities as they existed and were practiced among the editors of rival sheets in those days that have become historic.

The first paper in the county, the *Fergus Falls Advocate*, was established in 1871, with Orange S. King as editor and proprietor. He was a brother of Hon. William S. King, of Minneapolis, a famous politician of that day. He was wealthy and owner of a large blooded stock farm in Hennepin county. In his herd was the celebrated bull, "Duke of Hillhurst," concerning which animal more is to be said.

The second newspaper printed in the county was the *Otter Tail City Record*. It was started in September, 1871, with W. F. Ball as its editor. The proprietors of the paper were E. G. Holmes and Colonel Johnson, of Detroit, Minnesota.

In 1874 W. S. King was nominated and elected to Congress from the third congressional district of Minnesota. His campaign was one of the most famous—his enemies said infamous—campaigns of the state, before or since. Eugene M. Wilson, also of Minneapolis, was the Democratic candidate for Congress against King.

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The third newspaper of the county was the *Fergus Falls Journal*, owned and edited by A. J. Underwood. This paper was generally supposed to have been established or induced to come into the field by George B. Wright as a rival of the *Advocate*, as the latter paper was an exponent of the Austin faction and opposed to the Wright faction.

These preliminary explanations will make plainer the editorial extracts to follow. All three papers were supposed to be Republican in politics, but the *Journal* in 1874 bolted the party and supported Wilson for Congress. The extracts will speak for themselves. Nor is it necessary to say anything about King's ability to use the English language. That, too, may be judged from his editorials. The writer owns the only extant files of the *Advocate*, and has not a like access to the files of the *Journal*; hence the more liberal extracts from the former.

The following key to names used in the editorials will serve to make them more comprehensive: Pecksniff and Uriah Heep, *Advocate's* name for A. J. Underwood; Man Friday, *Advocate's* name for W. F. Ball; Orlando, *Journal's* name for O. S. King; Thing of Beauty, Missing Link and Darwinian End of *Journal* Menagerie, some of *Advocate's* names for C. J. Wright; Educational Editor of *Journal*, J. P. Williams; *Journal* Menagerie, *Journal* staff; Duke of Hillhurst, W. S. King's blooded bull; Managing Editor *Journal*, George B. Wright.

All that follows, and much more of the same sort, has been published before and is to be found in newspapers in the early days. The bringing together here of these extracts is simply a reproduction, placed in convenient form, to enable the curious to read them without the laborious search of voluminous files:

Look Out For Them.

The soreheads of the west end of the county, who failed in securing a full set of nominations to suit themselves, are now straining every nerve to secure success for the County Division movement. —*Otter Tail City Record.*

The above is decidedly rich, coming as it does from a paper owned in part by E. G. Holmes, an ex-candidate for the position of state senator, and a man who carries the sorest head of any man in the whole county, east or west. Would it not be better taste for the Man Friday to refrain from such sluss until his master's head has recovered sufficiently to do away with the necessity of a cooling poultice?

—*Fergus Falls Advocate*, October 28, 1871.

During the past summer and this fall, a great deal of dirty work has been done in this county in the interest of a few men whose positions would not permit of their doing it themselves. —*Otter Tail City Record.*

That's right, Friday. "Open confession is good for the soul," and we're glad to see that you propose to take the benefit of it. The whole county is aware that in the line of "dirty work" you have, so far as your ability will permit, done your share. It is to be hoped you will get your dearly earned wages, for the little conscience which your confession wood indicate you had left, must be troublesome to you at times.

—*Advocate*, November 25, 1871.

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A Cheap Tool.

E. G. Holmes' $25.00 Friday who dishes up a column or two of slops each week upon the patent insides of the *Otter Tail City Record*, takes occasion to go out of his way to slur Fergus Falls and its ladies. We would simply suggest to him that he will make more money and less cuffs if he confines himself in the future to his advertising business.

—*Advocate*, January 20, 1872.

A $25 F. F. V. on the Rampage.

Friday wants to Strap his Revolver on his Hip.

Women and Children to be Sent to Safe Quarters.

The F. F. V., yclept "Friday," imported from Alexandria by E. G. Holmes to preside over the columns of his "patent inside" advertising circular, and do his dirty work generally, is on the warpath. Now, while the ordinary F. F. V. can be purchastd on his native soil for a quart of common whiskey, "Friday" demanded and received $25 in greenbacks, because he don't drink whiskey any more, though he is apt to make mistakes when he counts his change by moonlight. He hasn't had a chance to sell since Holmes imported him, as his lack of brains rendered it impossible for him to give a consideration for more than twenty-five cents (and dear at that) and he is consequently short of filthy lucre.

The officers have failed to grease his itching palms with greenbacks, and he waxeth wroth, lubricates his soapy locks with another bottle of fish oil, and wildly throwing his disheveled hair behind his ears, opens the vials of his wrath and wastes a whole column of the "patent" *Record* in malicious slanders upon our county officers, and giving our county the reputation abroad of being a paradise for murderers, thieves and highwaymen. He goes on and cites a number of instances where crimes have been committed, and says that none of the perpetrators have been punished, through the efforts of our county officers, neither have they attempted to bring them to punishment, which he knew at the time to be totally false. We propose to take the matter up next week and prove the falsity of each and every allegation. —*Advocate*, February 10, 1872.

A Highway Robber's Opinion.

We hear it intimated that there is some talk of starting a newspaper at Fergus Falls in this county. As Fergus Falls is rapidly growing and already a thriving and prosperous place, her business men must feel the need of a reliable home organ and advertising medium. An honest, respectably conducted newspaper at that place would doubtless be a paying institution from the start. —*Otter Tail City Record.*

In order to secure an "honest, respectable" organ, according to Ball's idea of propriety, is for a man who has swindled a confiding friend out of the last dollar he had in the world to purchase the printing material necessary, and then secure the services of a tool like himself, who while attorney for one county deliberately compounded a felony for the pitiful sum of $25, and was forced by an indignant community to leave the county. A man, who, acting as deputy county attorney of our own county, and acting in that capacity as attorney for the man O'Conners, who had been robbed by Johnson of $90, deliberately robbed him of fifteen dollars more, of the money that had been recovered from robber No. 1. A fit-subject himself, for state's prison, prating of honesty and respectability is simply the mouthing of words that practically he never knew the meaning of, nor never will, unless a great miracle is wrought with him as with Saul of Tarsus. —*Advocate*, March 16, 1872.

Pecksniff's Biography.

The little Darwinian end of the *Journal* menagerie spreads himself out over four columns of that paper, last week, in a biographical sketch of the editorial career of Pecksniff, while he labored upon the Detroit *Record*. To somewhat relieve it of its egotism he has used assumed names for persons and places, but the character is drawn too naturally to be mistaken.

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We heard at the time of the occurrence that a cloud hung over his departure from the editorial chair of that paper, but was not aware that he had rendered himself so obnoxious to that people, or that he was so summarily treated, and we think that even now he could bring an action against the leaders of the mob for cruelty to animals.

We are pleased that the vealy biographer has at last given the public the exact position which Pecksniff fills upon the *Journal*, but we hardly think it fair that he should make such sarcastic allusions to his feet, as they are clearly outside matter, and no patent has been applied for on them, although there is sufficient ground for one to be issued upon. —*Fergus Falls Advocate*, June 10, 1874.

Worms or Colic—Which?

This week's *Journal* looks as if the whole menagerie had worms or a severe attack of wind colic. We are sorry to see that Pecksniff's stock of "conscientiousness" gave out at the court house, and that he indulges in the same class of statements which forced Ananias to turn up his toes. Forbear, Pecksniff. Don't try to act the character of Uriah Heep, too. You haven't the necessary brains; and besides that you are hypocritical enough without that.

We will try and relieve your pain with a worm lozenge, next week.

—*Fergus Falls Advocate*, June 17, 1874.

GREAT EXCITEMENT AMONGST THE ANIMALS.

The Journal Menagerie on the Stampede! The Keeper's Arrival From Minneapolis. One Fine Specimen Yet at Large.

As the Mexican bull becomes enraged at the display of the red scarf in the arena, so do some of the animals in George B. Wright's great Hippodrome become angry at certain sounds. For instance, the mention of the "Duke of Hillhurst" in an audible breath, within the enclosure produces the wildest demonstrations of rage and disorder. This was probably caused by a certain unpleasantness that took place some time ago between the owner of the "Duke" and Wright's principal specimen, Pecksniff. What that difficulty was we will not now stop to mention, but suffice to say that it became necessary to remove the animal from Minneapolis, out of sight and hearing of the "Duke's" keeper.

Last week while the Hippodrome was filled to overflowing and the animals were being fed, some thoughtless spectator inadvertently cried out "Hurrah for the Duke of Hillhurst." The effect was magical. The principal specimen gave his peculiar wail, which seemed to craze the whole collection. The keeper was absent at his home in Minneapolis, and it seemed as though our village were left to the mercy of the saguinary animals. The keeper was at once telegraphed, "to come." He came looking as much like the poorest of his collection as possible. But there was magic in his touch and the glance of his eye compelled obedience. The keeper was not long in quieting the animals and restoring order and confidence in our midst; but one of his finest specimens—that intelligent monkey which was soon expected to "evolve" into manhood thereby verifying the Darwinian theory—had broken loose and escaped. Strict search was made and every effort put forth to secure him to his keeper, but all in vain. The keeper returned to Minneapolis during the latter part of the week, much depressed in spirit feeling sure, as he says, that it will be years before he can again secure a specimen similar to the one he has lost.

P. S.—Since writing the above, we learn that the Darwinian end of the *Journal* Menagerie is in the woods west of Minneapolis, and hopes are entertained of his capture.

—*Fergus Falls Advocate*, July 1, 1874.

Pecksniff's pharasaical conscience prompts him to indulge in a contemptible fling at two-thirds of the citizens of our village who witnessed the races on the 4th of July,

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for being present at the only portion of the exercises which were a success. Under which conscience was the Pharisee laboring when he wrote the insult?

—*Fergus Falls Advocate*, July 8, 1874.

Pecksniff last week howls like a coyote, because he hears the owner of the Lyndale herd proposes to visit Fergus Falls. His Otter Tail conscience fairly loathes Lyndale bulls, and his stomach revolts at the thought of the juicy steak, just out of his reach. In the meantime his Wilkin county conscience itches to sample the paper mill soon to visit our village. Those two consciences are a terrible strain upon Pecksniff's tender constitution. —*Fergus Falls Advocate*, July 22, 1874.

That unique specimen of the *Journal's* menagerie, named in natural history the Ourang, but in the *Journal* collection labeled "A Thing of Beauty," gives vent to a feeble wail of lament, last week, at the slowness of its development. The "Thing" should not grow discouraged. It takes ages for that class of animals to develop, and of course the improvement of three short years would be imperceptible in so unpromising a specimen as the one in the *Journal* menagerie.

—*Fergus Falls Advocate*, August 5, 1874.

George B. Wright says that Pecksniff "has made an ass of himself by going over to the Anti-Monops." Oh no! He is only trying to improve upon the ass his maker made him. That's all. Don't be unkind to him George. He tries his best to do your dirty work acceptably. It isn't his fault that his ears are so long.

—*Fergus Falls Advocate*, August 12, 1874.

Journal's Name for Advocate—Pukeville Carrion.

Orlando's writing was never the best and his written account has been misinterpreted, and from the bold headline of every sheet flashed the startling intelligence that this was the "Pukeville Carrion." —*Journal*, June, 1874.

It is hard to be compelled with the sharp and unrelenting point of truth to puncture and take the mind out of a sweet pretty fabrication like the above. I greatly fear that Orlando though a "religious man which Colonel King does not profess to be," yet hath somewhat of the original Adam remaining within his epidermis, and that in the language of the Press, he still needs no family Bible to prove his relationship to the Duke of Hillhurst. —*Journal*, September 10, 1874.

"Underwood stultifies himself—simply that he may raise an opposition to 'Bill King' whom he hates because he is a brother of ours." —*Advocate*.

"Orlando, you are getting forgetful. A while ago you said we hated Bill because he refused to set us 'up in business,' and now because he is your brother. No, no, we love the whole King family, and you can't help yourself. You can't shake us off that way. We mean to stick to you." —*Journal*, October 1, 1874.

WHY THE TELEGRAM.

There have been in all, more than twenty newspapers in Fergus Falls, and their careers have been as checkered as that of any business or profession of the city. They have been decimated and driven to the four corners of the compass like the noble red man before the march of higher civilization, until only four survive to tell their history; and none of the four would tell it in full. All, with one exception, came into the world naked, on a mission of profit or revenge. Some lingered for a time and went out like a candle in the wind. Others scintillated for a briefer period before entering the realms of oblivion.

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The *Telegram* came, "born with a silver spoon in its mouth," generously inserted by C. F. Kindred, candidate for Congress in 1882. It was conceived sired, dammed and endowed by Kindred to promote his election. It did not lack sustenance till the votes were counted. To change the metaphor, it was a gallant craft, manned with a valiant, if somewhat convivial crew, and gracefully rode the boisterous billows of the political sea till the wind went down. This calm came with Kindred's defeat for Congress, when the owner, captain and purser, three in one, an unsavory trinity, deserted the ship and paddled ashore in a leaky life boat, a sadder but wiser man.

To return to our first similitude after the desertion of the father, the more human crew attempted to raise the unfortunate child on the bottle. Of such there was a plenty; but lacking the sustaining fluid, the rickety thing was adopted by the *Fergus Falls Journal*, where it soon lost its identity

The advent of the *Telegram* added to the amenities of the Press (?) of those times, and while the advocacy of Kindred's candidacy made "hard sledding" on the road to success, it did not hinder its career of abuse of any and all the suppoters of Nelson. As a sample of the elevated tone of journalism at that time, a single instance will serve to illustrate it. Bagg Hall was Kindred's editor of the *Telegram*. Jacob Austin was a strong supporter of Knute Nelson. That was sufficient to incur Bagg's antipathy. The *Telegram* came out one day with an abusive and scurrilous diatribe on Austin. No one who knew the latter expected him to remain quiet. All looked for the next issue of the *Journal* to see what Jake would say in reply. When the *Journal* appeared, sure enough, it contained Austin's answer, as follows:

"To the Editor of *Journal*:

"I see that Bagg Hall is drunk again.

"J. Austin."

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CHAPTER XX.

THE OTTER TAIL COUNTY BAR.

No one cares much for the lawyer except in time of trouble. The members of no profession or calling are subject to such severe criticism as the lawyers. No subject in any book of maxims is so lengthy in condemnatory proverbs as the "Lawyer." It is a popular custom to speak of them as a profession of rascals. People forget that "dishonest clients make dishonest lawyers." It is not hard to find a reason for this general opinion. In a measure, the profession is responsible for this popular estimate. One unscrupulous shyster in a community will characterize, in the minds of the people, the whole bar, and none know his unworthiness better than the bar itself. It is generally believed that there is a sort of "freemasonry" in the profession, obligating its members to hang together, and overlook, if not actually defend, the methods of its delinquents. There is just enough truth in this to justify the public in such an estimate of the profession.

Knowing, as lawyers do, who are the disreputable members of the bar, they seem to be the last ones willing to complain and apply the adequate existing remedies for non-professional conduct; and their lack of action in such cases justifies many of the criticisms directed against the profession.

Within restricted limits, the competition is as sharp and strenuous among lawyers as in any other business. Every shyster has his friends and followers, and naturally they are as unscrupulous as he. A complaint against him by a brother practitioner for dishonest or unprofessional conduct, subjects the complaining one to the charge of jealousy and a desire to injure a competitor. In ninety cases out of a hundred, the dread of that charge restrains the reputable lawyer from moving in the matter of disbarment. Hence, the unworthy member is permitted to continue his career in "shysterdom," while the public looks and holds the fraternity in sympathy, if not in league, with him in his methods and practice.

But notwithstanding all these jibes and criticisms, there is no more honorable, high-minded and conscientious body of men than those of the legal profession. Their influence for good is everywhere felt, and the moral tone of a community takes its bent from its lawyers, often to a greater extent than it does from its clergymen. This is so because the lawyer comes in closer touch with the practical affairs of a neighborhood than does the minister.

The Otter Tail county bar has been no exception to the general rule. It has contained its full quota of honest, able and upright members, and

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possessed its share of shysters and "alleged lawyers," as well. In point of moral worth, it has always ranked with that of any other bar in the state, and in point of ability it has always been considered by the courts—the best judges of the bar's merits—as the equal of any in the state and the superior of many.

Officially, it has furnished the nation and the state with one United States senator, three district court judges, one supreme court justice, two attorney-generals of the state, two assistant attorney-generals, one United States district attorney and one railroad and warehouse commissioner.

The following is a list of the attorneys of the county, with the date of their settlement and the time of their departure therefrom, either through death or removal to other localities, in so far as the facts are obtainable:

E. E. Corliss	1870	
Bert Melville	1871–1873	
Newton H. Chittenden	1871–1876	
John W. Mason	1871	
Peter N. Smith	1872–1886	Killed
David P. Hatch	1871–1875	
C. E. Chapman	1878	
H. E. Rawson	1880–1891	
Moses E. Clapp	1881–1891	
H. F. Woodard	1882–1891	
James F. Cowie	1884–1915	Died in California
Edwin M. Wright	1872–1893	Died
Charles L. Lewis	1879–1889	
Clifford L. Hilton	1879–1909	
A. C. Brown	1882–1885	
John O. Barke	1880	
Riley J. Marden	1880–1904	Died
F. J. Peterson	1884–1886	
M. R. Tyler	1880–1906	
George W. Frankberg	Native	
Nicholas F. Field	Native	
John L. Townley	1902	
Luther L. Baxter	1884–1915	Died
J. O. Barke	1880	
Chauncey L. Baxter	1884–1904	
Charles C. Houpt	1883–1906	
Henry W. Childs	1884–1887	
Edward Dampier	1887–1904	
Charles H. Tusley	1881–1886	Died

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William L. Parsons	1883	
Michael J. Daly	1882	
John P. Winter	1898–1903	
Anton Thompson	1876	
John Thompson	1876	
Henry Thompson	Native	
John Strachen		
H. R. Day	1881–1889	Died
Henry Dressler	1882–1897	Died
Charles L. Alexander	1906	
Harry Bruce	1881	
William P. Bailey	1886	
George C. Olmstead	1889	
P. O. Noben	1872–1889	
Hans Bugge	1885–1900	
George W. Downing	1890–1905	
H. Lord	1880–1885	
A. Shannon	1885	
James A. Brown	1883	
J. P. Shroeder	Native	
George F. Shea	Native	
Arthur Barke	Native	

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CHAPTER XXI.

THE MEDICAL PROFESSION.

The followers of Aesculapius found their way into Otter Tail county shortly after it was organized in 1868. As far as is known, there were no physicians in the county prior to 1871, although there may have been some called in from adjoining counties. Undoubtedly, physicians had been called to Otter Tail City before 1862, when the Indians frightened all the people out of the county. The trials of the pioneer physicians of the county were probably greater than fell to the lot of any other class of men. With a scattered population, few roads, and all these mere trails at first, the physician of forty-five years ago necessarily had to be a man of courage if he expected to locate in the county and attend to all the calls which might come to him.

The first physician in Fergus Falls, and probably the first in the county, was Dr. R. M. Reynolds (Bellevue Hospital Medical College, 1866), who came from Rochester, Minnesota, in 1871. He built a small log cabin at the corner of Union and Junius avenues, where he and his young wife began housekeeping in the fall of 1871. Doctor Reynolds was a finely educated man, devoted to his profession, and was not only looked upon as an able man in his profession, but also as a very desirable citizen for the new county. In his chapter on Reminiscences, Mr. Mason has given an interesting sketch of Doctor Reynolds. It is sufficient to say in this connection that he continued to practice in Fergus Falls until 1895, when he removed to California, dying at Redlands, in that state, three years later, at the age of fifty-five.

It is not the purpose of this chapter to give a complete sketch of all of the physicians who have practiced in the county for the past forty-five years. The personal sketches of several of the physicians of today appear in the biographical section of this work.

Otter Tail county today has representatives of all the various schools for the treatment of disease, and, as a matter of historical knowledge, they should find a place in the medical history of the county. Each system of treatment has its followers, and just as there are different churches wherein a man may prepare himself for the future life, so are there different schools of medicine by which a man may seek to keep himself in this life as long as possible. Some wise man has made the remark that notwithstanding the fact that we have allopaths, homeopaths, osteopaths, neuropaths, samopaths and psychopaths, yet all paths lead to the grave. The historian of Otter Tail county who reads these pages a century hence will doubtless smile as he reads these pages,

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and wonder at the various systems of therapeutics and prophylactics herein described.

There is no accurate way of determining the number of physicians in Otter Tail county prior to 1897, although the great majority of them are shown in the appended list. The Legislature of 1897 passed an act which provided that "Before engaging in practice, the holder of a license shall file it for record with the clerk of the district court in the county where he resides. Upon removal to another county, he shall there file his license in a like manner before engaging in practice therein. Such clerk shall keep, in the record books of such licenses an index thereof, showing the date and page of record, and in January of each year shall furnish to the secretary of the board a list of licenses so filed. Upon notice to the clerk of the death or removal of a licensee, or of the revocation of a license, he shall note the same on the record of such license." A subsequent act was passed in 1905, but it made little change in the law, merely defining certain points and making the law fuller so that it would cover certain points which we overlooked in previous acts.

An effort has been made to compile a complete list of all the physicians who have practiced in Otter Tail county. No local records are available prior to 1897, and the names of the physicians who practiced before that time have been ascertained from interviews with residents of the county who have lived here since the seventies. In the list which is here appended an effort has been made to learn the name of the college from which the physician graduated, the date of graduation, the year he registered in the county or state and his present address. In many cases the records do not show the county in which the physician first registered; in other cases it has not been possible to locate physicians who have practiced in the county in the past.

The following list does not include the physicians who have been connected with the Fergus Falls state hospital for the insane since it was established in 1891. Some of these physicians have been registered in Otter Tail county but have never practiced here, although on a few occasions, they have been called in consultation by local physicians. As far as known, none of the physicians connected with the hospital has ever practiced in the county.

Ausman, Carl F.—University of Minnesota, 1913; registered in Stearns county first and in Otter Tail, October 22, 1913; present address.

Baker, Axel C.—Northwestern, Chicago, 1901; registered in Otter Tail county, October 11, 1901, and has practiced in Fergus Falls since that date.

Bedford, W. C.—Chicago Medical College, 1874; came to Fergus Falls in 1876, the second physician to locate in the county; practiced in Fergus until about 1890, when he went west on account of his health, and later died in Tombstone, Arizona.

Beise, C. J.—Rush Medical College, 1894; practiced in Fergus Falls for a number of years, and later moved to Mankato, where he died.

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Bergthold, J. L.—University of Maryland, 1886; came to Minnesota the year of his graduation and has practiced practically ever since in Pelican Rapids.

Bergquist, K. E.—Hamline, 1897; first registered in Ramsey county and later in Otter Tail, but practiced in this county only a few years.

Black, William.—University of Minnesota, 1909; registered in Hennepin county, June 30, 1909.

Boysen, Peter.—University of Minnesota, 1911; registered in Otter Tail county July 24, 1911, and has since practiced in Pelican Rapids.

Brabec, Frank J.—University of Minnesota, 1893; registered in Otter Tail county the same year, and has practiced at Perham since that time.

Bridgman, Mark S.—University of Minnesota, 1915; deceased.

Brown, John B.—Boston University School of Medicine, 1900; registered in Otter Tail county January 24, 1901.

Burke, E. L.—University of Illinois, 1900; registered in Otter Tail county June 19, 1900.

Burlingame, C. C.—University of Minnesota, 1915; now connected with the Cheney Silk Mills in Connecticut.

Burnap, Willard L.—Rush Medical College, 1901; registered in Otter Tail county in 1905; first practiced in Pelican Rapids and later in Fergus Falls, where he is now located.

Cole, A. B.—Homeopathic Medical College, New York, 1879; located in Fergus Falls in 1882; has practiced in the city since that time.

Cole, Carl Vincent.—University of Minnesota, 1904; registered in Otter Tail county April 22, 1905; now practicing in Mobile, Alabama.

Cutler, C. W.—Rush Medical College, 1880; Bellevue Hospital Medical College, 1885; now located at Park Rapids, Minnesota.

Davis, Luther A.—University of Minnesota, 1901; registered in Otter Tail county April 12, 1901; now practicing at Dalton.

Drought, W. W.—University of Minnesota, 1891; registered in Otter Tail county and has practiced for the past several years in Fergus Falls.

Duncan, W. T.—McGill University, Canada, 1882; settled in Fergus Falls where he practiced until he died.

Eichler, William C.—Hamline, 1908; registered in Otter Tail county June 26, 1908, and practiced in Fergus Falls until his death in 1914.

Eisen, W. T.—Bennett Medical College, Chicago, 1880; came to Otter Tail county in October, 1883, and practiced in Fergus Falls for a time.

Engstrom, F. A.—University of Minnesota, 1908; registered in Otter Tail county June 26, 1908; practiced in Clitherall for a few years.

Esser, John.—University of Minnesota, 1908; registered in Otter Tail county April 16, 1909, and has since practiced at Perham.

Estrem, C. O.—University of Minnesota, 1907; registered in Otter Tail county April 17, 1908, and has since practiced in Fergus Falls.

Fortier, Edward.—University of Minnesota, 1908; registered in Otter Tail county June 26, 1908.

Freeborn, John A.—Rush Medical College, Chicago, 1889; practiced in Fergus Falls since 1889.

Gosslee, Albert.—Exemption certificate; now practicing at Deer Creek.

Greenlee, D. R.—University of Victoria, Canada, 1886; practiced in Fergus Falls during the eighties, later went to Minneapolis where he died.

Haugan, Otto M.—Northwestern University, Chicago, 1902; registered in Otter Tail county on October 24, 1902, and has practiced in Fergus Falls since that time.

Haugen, Gilbert T.—University of Minnesota, 1905; registered in Otter Tail county in June, 1905, since which time he has practiced in Battle Lake.

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Haynes, Fred E.—University of Minnesota, 1809; registered in Otter Tail county October 12, 1899.

Heimark, Charles D.—University of Nashville, 1896; registered in Minnesota in 1901, and practiced for several years in Battle Lake; later practiced in northern Minnesota; deceased.

Hirschfield, M. S.—Hamline, 1902; registered in Otter Tail county June 20, 1902; practiced for a while in this county and then removed to Duluth where he is now located.

Hoffmann, Jacob L.—University of Christiana, Norway, 1894; registered in Minnesota, 1909; before locating in Henning he practiced at Elbow Lake.

Hutton, Terry J.—Long Island College Hospital, 1871; came to Minnesota in the early eighties and located at Fergus Falls where he practiced until his death.

Jelstrup, M. F. B. C.—Northwestern, Chicago, 1903; registered in Otter Tail county June 19, 1903; practiced for a time at Vining and then went to North Dakota where he is now located.

Kittelson, Theodore M.—University of Minnesota, 1902; registered in Otter Tail county June 20, 1902; has practiced in Fergus Falls since that date.

Knight, John.—Exemption certificate; registered in Minnesota in January, 1894, and has been practicing continuously since that time in this county; for several years he has been located in the village of Otter Tail.

Larsen, Anders D.—University of Minnesota, 1893; located at Parkers Prairie, where he practiced a few years.

Larson, Frank E.—University of Minnesota, 1902; registered in Otter Tail county June 20, 1902.

Leaky, Bartholomew.—Registered in Otter Tail county October 25, 1911.

Lee, J. Kenelm.—John Hopkins, 1904; registered in Minnesota in October, 1904; practiced in Fergus Falls from 1904 to 1907 when he located in Minneapolis.

Lee, William A.—University of Illinois, 1913; registered in Otter Tail county May 16, 1913, practiced here for a short time and then located in Minneapolis.

Leonard, H. C.—Hahnemann, Philadelphia, 1878; came to Fergus Falls shortly after graduation from medical college, and practiced here until about 1898; now in Duluth.

Lewis, Arthur.—College of Physicians and Surgeons, Minneapolis, 1895; registered in Minnesota in 1895; practiced at Henning since 1895.

Lyng, John.—University of Minnesota, 1890; registered in Minnesota in June, 1890; has practiced in Fergus Falls since 1913.

McLean, T. N.—McGill University, Canada, 1882; registered in Minnesota in October, 1883, and practiced in Fergus Falls until his death.

McNulty, J. F.—Physicians and Surgeons, Chicago, 1893; registered in Minnesota, January, 1894; practiced in Fergus Falls until 1896.

McDonald, T. S.—Exemption certificate; practiced in Henning.

Magelsen, Melsuis.—University of King Frederick, Norway, 1877; registered in Minnesota in October, 1883; practiced in Fergus Falls; deceased.

Magnusson, Gustav A.—University of Minnesota, 1908; registered in Otter Tail county, June 26, 1908; practiced at Battle Lake; now located at Aitkin, Minnesota.

Magnusson, Victor.—University of Minnesota, 1903; registered in Otter Tail county February 6, 1909, and practiced for a short time at Battle Lake, now located at Aitkin, Minnesota.

Martin, Thomas Roy.—University of Minnesota, 1907; registered in Otter Tail county June 13, 1907.

Meidell, Roy A. O.—University of Christiana, Norway, 1895, registered in Otter Tail county January 12, 1897, being the first name to appear on the register of physicians in Otter Tail county; practiced in Fergus Falls a few months; now located at Aneta, North Dakota.

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Miller, W. A.—Kansas City Medical College, 1896; registered in Otter Tail county April 12, 1899, and has lived in the county since that time; is now located at the village of Otter Tail.

Naegeli, Frank.—Northwestern, Chicago, 1911; registered in Otter Tail county April 24, 1912, and has practiced in Fergus Falls.

Nielson, Tord.—University of King Frederick, Norway, 1881; registered in Minnesota in 1883; came to Fergus Falls and continued to practice here until about 1900; now located in North Dakota.

Ohrbom, Torsten.—Alexanders University, Helsingfors, Finland, Europe, 1902; registered in Otter Tail county January 15, 1909, and practiced at New York Mills for a time and then moved to Indiana.

Olson, John W.—University of Minnesota, 1900; registered in Otter Tail county June, 1901; practiced in Fergus Falls a short time; now located in North Dakota.

Otto, Henry Carl.--Registered in Otter Tail county January 17, 1912, and has since practiced at Vergas.

Pattee, William H.—Certificate; located for practice at Pelican Rapids in 1881.

Paulson, Andrew J.—Jefferson, 1904; registered in Otter Tail county December 7, 1909, practiced for a time in this county and then removed to Flaxton, North Dakota.

Perry, Ralph St. J.—Medical College of Indiana, 1884; registered in Minnesota in January, 1895, and practiced at Parkers Prairie for several years.

Quitmeyer, Otto C.—Hamline, 1902; registered in Otter Tail county June 20, 1902, and practiced at Parkers Prairie; deceased.

Randall, A. Mason.—Hamline, 1903; registered in Otter Tail county June, 1903; practiced at Underwood for several years, now located at Ashby, Minnesota.

Ray, William.—Missouri Medical College, 1868; located in Otter Tail county in the eighties and practiced in Pelican Rapids for several years after first coming to the county; later located at Fergus Falls leaving there about 1904 to locate at Phillipsburg, Montana.

Reeve, E. A. T.—Hamline, 1897; registered in Otter Tail county June 22, 1909; practiced for a time at Parkers Prairie and later located at Elbow Lake, Minnesota.

Reynolds, R. M.—Bellevue Hospital Medical College, 1866; the first physician to locate in Otter Tail county; settled in Fergus Falls in 1871 and practiced there continuously until 1895.

Reynolds, Wilbur S.—Certificate. Located at Henning in 1883, where he practiced for many years. He also operated a drug store in Henning.

Rydell, Charles B.--Registered in Otter Tail county June 20, 1913.

Sanborn, Courtland R.—University of Minnesota, 1907; registered in Otter Tail county June 13, 1907.

Seashore, David E.—University of Minnesota, 1902; registered in Otter Tail county June 20, 1902; practiced in Battle Lake for a time and then moved to Duluth where he is now located.

Setnan, John M.—Registered in Minnesota in June, 1896; practiced in Fergus Falls, 1896-98; deceased.

Sherping, Olaf Thomas.—Keokuk Medical College, 1894; registered in Otter Tail county October 11, 1901, and has since practiced at Fergus Falls; superintendent St. Luke hospital.

Tufte, Daniel.—University of Christiana, Norway, 1893; registered in Minnesota in October, 1897; located at Pelican Rapids where he continued in practice until just before the opening of the European War in 1914; being in Europe at that time taking postgraduate work in one of the German universities, he attached himself to one of the Red Cross organizations and died while in the service during the first year of the war.

Verne, Victor E.—University of Minnesota, 1906; registered in Otter Tail county

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August 14, 1906, and practiced in Parkers Prairie for a short time; now located at Moorhead, Minnesota.

Vinje, Syver.—University of Minnesota, 1902; registered in Otter Tail county June 20, 1902; practiced in Henning for a time and then located at Hillsboro, North Dakota.

Wallace, Raymond A.—University of Michigan, 1902; registered in Otter Tail county June 20, 1902; practiced only a short time in the county, removing to Chattanooga, Tennessee.

In addition to the physicians listed above there are a few who have either practiced only a short time in the county or else left the county and state without leaving any record. Among these may be mentioned Nathan Freeman, Herbert H. Leibold, William Davidson and Nicholaz W. Schumacher. There are some in the list whose addresses are lacking and it was impossible to trace them after they left the county.

Practitioners of osteopathy have been recognized by the state Legislature since 1909, when an act was passed creating a state board of osteopathy composed of five osteopathic physicians appointed by the governor for a term of five years. The act creating the board defined osteopathy and specifies that only those physicians could be licensed who had attended a school of osteopathy for at least three entire sessions of eight months each. The license of an osteopath does not authorize the holder "to give or prescribe drugs for internal use or perform major surgery." Since this act has gone into operation J. Floyd Curtis, who registered January 11, 1911, has been the only osteopath to register in Otter Tail county. The first osteopath to practice in Fergus Falls was a man by the name of Botenfield, who located in the city shortly after 1900. He was followed by Mr. and Mrs. C. W. King, who practiced here a few years, Mrs. King doing most of the work. At the present time Doctor Curtis is the only osteopath in the county.

The first practitioner of chiropractic in the county was Arthur Anger who located in Fergus Falls in 1909 and has practiced here continously since that day. He has added mechano-therapy to his regular work as a chiropractor; in fact, he combines in his practice all of the latest methods in use by naturopaths. The only other chiropractor in the county is Gustav Henderson, of Fergus Falls, who devotes himself to pure chiropractic.

DENTISTRY.

The first dentist in Otter Tail county to locate permanently was R. H. Phalon, who came to Fergus Falls during the seventies. Before he came there was another dentist, Bell by name, who made occasional visits to Fergus Falls and there are people still living in the city who possess some of his handiwork. In those early days there were no dental schools in the west and the ranks of the profession were recruited from those who studied in the office of some dentist. J. E. Metcalf, the oldest practicing dentist in

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the county, learned his profession in the office of Phalon, and there were others who enjoyed the same privilege.

The first act of the state Legislature to provide for the registration of dentists was passed March 5, 1885. This act provided for a board of five practicing dentists whose duties were to pass upon the qualifications of those seeking to practice dentistry in this state. The act provided that all those who had been practicing prior to this time were to be allowed to continue without examination. Since that date the original act has been amended from time to time and the present board of dental examiners now consists of six members. When the act of 1885 went into operation there were four dentists practicing in the county: R. H. Phalon, A. C. Greenlee, J. E. Metcalf and William Ulvin, the latter being registered in 1885 as a non-resident. The present location of some has not been ascertained.

The following is a list of all the dentists registered in Otter Tail county since 1892, with date of registration and present location, where known: William C. Dunn, April 8, 1892; A. V. Williams, 1893; George W. Harris, July 5, 1894, Fergus Falls; F. N. Whittaker, July 24, 1893, Fergus Falls; T. T. McDonald, July 28, 1896; M. L. Hilton, October 6, 1897; L. C. Edison, June 18, 1898, deceased; H. S. Prichett, June 18, 1898, Perham; J. F. Knudson, June 17, 1900, Pelican Rapids; Ralph Lampere, June 16, 1900; H. J. Rice, June 14, 1901; H. J. Laffitte, June 23, 1903, Fergus Falls; Hans C. Hektner, June 23, 1903, Battle Lake; Albert H. Woolson, October 13, 1903, Spokane, Washington; John Schacht, Fergus Falls; Joseph A. Schacht, July 1, 1904, Wadena; George E. Bell, July 1, 1904, Fergus Falls; C. E. Parrot, July 30, 1904, deceased; W. O. Asseln, May 26, 1905, Washington; Charles Nelson, June 5, 1905, Fergus Falls; Isador H. Walstrom, July 2, 1906; William R. Jung, October 4, 1906; Owen S. Barke, June 22, 1907, deceased; E. O. Wilson, November 11, 1909; B. H. Saunders, June 27, 1910; H. A. Proehl, November 29, 1910; G. A. Anderson, July 3, 1911, New York City; Roy Calvin Lang, June 22, 1912; Walter H. Dahl, March 15, 1913; H. E. Niebels, June 24, 1913, Fergus Falls; Benjamin J. Esser, June 24, 1913; Ingram S. Benson, June 24, 1913; Victor A. Bousquet, June 24, 1913; Harold Nelson, Fergus Falls.

OPTOMETRISTS.

The practice of optometry has been regulated by the state since 1901, when the Legislature passed an act providing for the registration of optometrists. The practice of optometry means the employment of subjective and objective mechanical means to determine the accommodative and refractive states of the eye and the scope of its functions in general, and the adjustment, adaptation and prescribing of lenses and other instrumentalities in aid of vision. The first optometrists to register in Otter Tail county

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were A. M. Fargeman and Mary J. Fargeman, who registered on June 11, 1901. Two others registered in 1901, F. H. Straub (October 16) and N. P. Moen (December 28); three others registered on March 30, 1915, viz. Paul Miller, J. D. Leidal and J. M. Seifert.

GEORGE B. WRIGHT MEMORIAL HOSPITAL.

The George B. Wright Memorial hospital, located at the corner of Cascade street and Bismark avenue, was given to the city of Fergus Falls in 1905 by Vernon A. Wright in memory of his father. In giving this hospital to the people of the city it was the purpose of the donor to have the ill and injured cared for as nearly as possible at actual cost. The management of the hospital is vested in a board of fifteen directors, who hold annual meetings in May, at which time they re-elect officers. The present officers are as follow: M. T. Mahon, president; W. L. Parson, vice-president; E. E. Adams, treasurer; W. B. Windsor, secretary. The title to the hospital is in the name of the Wright Memorial Hospital Association, a voluntary organization without capital, to which anyone may belong upon the payment of an annual fee of one dollar. Life membership may be secured for twenty-five dollars. It is this association which choses the board of directors; however, as a matter of fact, the management of the hospital has gradually fallen into the hands of the board, which may, therefore, be called a self-perpetuating body.

The board selects a superintendent to take direct charge of the hospital, the first being Eliza McLean. She was followed by Miss Braaten, now Mrs. G. M. Olmstead, of Fergus Falls. The present superintendent is Clara Perkins, who has been in charge for the past three years. From nine to twelve nurses are employed all the time. The hospital has a capacity of thirty beds, eight of which are in private wards, and during the past year the hospital has been filled practically all the time to its fullest capacity. In fact, so crowded has the building become that arrangements were made during the winter of 1915-16 to build an addition to the hospital to cost from eight to ten thousand dollars. It is the intention to begin work on this addition during the present year.

There is an organization of women of the city, known as the Wright Hospital Guild, which supports one bed for the benefit of those unable to pay. This group of women has been of great assistance to the hospital in various ways. At the present time they are making plans to erect a home for the nurses and have already collected a fund of two thousand five hundred dollars, which they have out on interest. They expect to be able to build a six-thousand dollar home within the next few years. It might be mentioned that the city is not taxed for the benefit the hospital.

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ST. LUKE'S HOSPITAL.

In the spring of 1902, when Dr. O. Th. Sherping located in Fergus Falls, the city had no hospital, and patients needing hospital treatment were sent to the "Twin cities" or Chicago. Doctor Sherping at once started an agitation for the building of a hospital. As with all new enterprises, there were people in the city who were opposed to the proposition, most of the opposition arising from the fact that they did not see the necessity of such an institution. However, Doctor Sherping was soon joined by such zealous workers as Reverend Skyberg, Oliver Olson, Doctor Vigen, K. H. Bergerud, A. G. Anderson and others, with the result that within a short time the hospital was an assured thing.

The work of construction began in the spring of 1903 and in the following October the building was ready for occupancy. It is located at No. 715 Mill street south, and is a handsome structure of brick and frame construction. Additions to the building have been made at intervals in order to meet the growing demands made upon it; a large fire-proof addition is now in process of construction, which will bring the capacity of the institution up to fifty-five patients.

At the beginning the hospital received financial assistance from different societies of the Norwegian Lutheran church, but it is now altogether self-supporting. It is managed by a board of directors, elected annually by the hospital association, the association being composed of those who subscribed toward the building fund. Oliver Olson is the present manager, and Sister Margaret Tjelde is the superintendent. The hospital employs fifteen nurses. The medical directors are Dr. Olaf Th. Sherping and Dr. J. G. Vigen.

FERGUS FALLS STATE HOSPITAL FOR THE INSANE.

In 1885 the Legislature established a commission to locate a third hospital for the insane in the northern part of the state. The commission received several propositions from important towns in the section designated and finally accepted the proposal of Fergus Falls. The state secured the title to six hundred and thirty-six acres of land and in 1887 the Legislature formally located the hospital and established the same at Fergus Falls. The first appropriation was for $94,280, of which $24,280 was for the land, $50,000 for a building and a detached ward, and $20,000 for boiler house and engine, laundry, shops, stables, sewerage and water connections. The appropriation for buildings contemplated the erection of a building large enough to accommodate three hundred persons.

Work on the various buildings was begun as soon as the appropriation was available and was pushed as rapidly as possible. The hospital was first opened for the reception of patients on July 29, 1890. At that time eighty insane patients were transferred from the state hospital at St. Peter and

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three others from adjacent counties, showing a total population of eighty-three at the close of the first fiscal year. The number of buildings has been increased from year to year to accommodate the constantly increasing demands caused by an increase in the number of insane. At the present time eighteen hundred patients are cared for and it requires two hundred and fifty employees to look after their welfare. The present officers are as follow: G. O. Welch, superintendent; O. C. Chase, steward; C. C. Burlingame, assistant superintendent; W. L. Patterson, assistant physician; M. S. Bringman, assistant physician; W. L. Meng, assistant physician; Olive E. Smith, assistant physician.

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CHAPTER XXII.

CHURCHES OF OTTER TAIL COUNTY.

History has failed to preserve the name of the first minister in Otter Tail county; neither is there any record of the first religious service to be held within the limits of the county. While it is known that there were a number of people in the county between 1858 and 1862, yet there is no record of a church being organized during that period. There may have been an itinerant minister or a stray missionary to hold services, but if such is the case the record of such a meeting has long ago disappeared along with the settlers who may have attended them. Certain it is that between 1862 and 1865 there was no church in the county, but in the latter year the first religious organization made its appearance. It was a branch of the Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter Day Saints and was established at the village of old Clitherall.

The history of churches is always more or less difficult to follow because of the fact that many of them do not keep permanent records. It is not the purpose of this brief summary of the churches of the county to attempt to trace them chronologically. However, it seems certain that the second definite religious organization of the county was made by the Catholics in the summer of 1866. In that year Father Joseph M. Albrecht brought a colony of German Catholics from Mercer county, Ohio, to Otter Tail county and settled with them in Rush Lake township. For many years this was the only Catholic church in the county, but as it has increased in population other parishes have been organized and today there are nine other Catholic congregations in the county.

In 1868 began the great influx of Scandinavians to Otter Tail county, and one of the first things that these good people did when they got settled was to provide a place of worship. As soon as a community numbered a dozen or more families a church was organized, invariably Lutheran in denomination. The result is that today there are at least a hundred Scandinavian churches in the county. They are by far the most numerous, with the largest membership, and naturally have had the greatest influence upon the life of the county.

In Fergus Falls the Swedish Baptists seem to have been the first to get definitely started although they were closely followed by the Methodists, Congregationalists, Presbyterians, Lutherans and other Protestant denominations. The history of the early church struggles in Fergus Falls has been graphically told in another part of this volume in the reminiscences of Hon. J. W.

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Mason. Suffice it to say in this connection that the number of churches has always kept abreast with the population, and, so some of the people of the city think, the number of churches has grown faster than the population warrants. There are now eighteen congregations in Fergus Falls, a city of eight thousand, and a conservative estimate places the church-going portion of the city at about two thousand, an average of about one hundred and ten to a church. In other words, Fergus Falls has about six thousand people who do not feel the need of churches, or if they do, not of the kind which the city supports. It is not the purpose of the historian to attempt an explanation for such a state of affairs, but simply to chronicle them as actual facts and let the reader make his own deductions. In 1911 began a movement in the city which should be productive of good results in the future. This was the federation of the Congregational and Presbyterian churches, neither of which was sufficiently strong to employ a first-class minister, but which together constitute one of the strongest congregations in the city.

The question of federation or consolidation is beginning to be seriously considered by Evangelical bodies in all parts of the United States, and the day is not far distant when villages of three or four hundred will cease attempting to try to support three or four churches. Two rural communities in Otter Tail county have taken a step in this direction already; one at Dalton, where three Lutheran denominations combined to build a church; the other in Scambler township, which was built solely through the efforts of a number of women of that section of the county who belonged to various Protestant denominations. The Lutherans are now working on a plan for amalgamation.

An effort has been made to include in this chapter the history of each church in Otter Tail county. There is found in the office of the register of deeds a list of all the churches of the county which have been incorporated. In many cases incorporation articles give the date of organization, and a number of the charter members of the church. In others very little information is set forth, little beyond the mere data of incorporation and the officers of the church. This list of churches has been compiled and a letter sent to each one in the county with a request for sufficient data to bring the history of the church down to the present time. Unfortunately, a number of the churches have failed to respond to this request for information and, since it is manifestly impossible to visit each church community in the county to get this data, nothing can be given in this chapter about these churches except such information as has been gleaned from the incorporation records. Another point should be mentioned in writing up the history of these churches. Practically all of the replies have been written in longhand and in the case of names, such as charter members, pastors and church officers, no little diffi-

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culty has been experienced in trying to decipher them. Every effort has been made to verify names, but it is realized that with all this care many errors in the spelling of names have crept in. The same request for information was sent to all the churches in the county, but some failed to furnish sufficient data to make a connected history of their church. In such cases, although the church may be large and flourishing, its history may appear in a very abbreviated sketch.

An act of the Legislature passed April 11, 1901, provided that every minister in the state, irrespective of denomination, should be registered in some county. No minister could perform a legal marriage ceremony until he was so registered, although it was provided that he register in only one county. Since the passage of this act eighty-five ministers, representing eleven different denominations, have registered in Otter Tail county. This does not include all the ministers who have preached in the county, since many have registered elsewhere in the state prior to their coming to this county.

The complete list of ministers registered in the office of the clerk of the district court of Otter Tail county, together with the date of their registration and the denomination they represent, is set forth in the following table:

Minister.	Date of Registration.	Denomination.
Alexander H. Smith	June 23, 1903	Latter Day Saints
Henry Olaus Shurson	July 15, 1903	Lutheran
H. R. McKee	August 28, 1903	Baptist
Alonzo Whiting	November 3, 1903	Latter Day Saints
Paul Huick	November 9, 1903	Catholic
Sam Henry Ronka	November 10, 1903	Lutheran
William F. Bradley	January 30, 1904	Methodist Episcopal
Robert L. Vance	February 16, 1904	Presbyterian
Charles L. Wilcot	March 8, 1904	Methodist Episcopal
Carl Edward Wedholm	June 7, 1904	Swedish Baptist
James Wroy	April 19, 1904	Presbyterian
Julius A. Quello	June 16, 1904	Lutheran
George P. Walton	March 15, 1904	Methodist Episcopal
F. C. Harsh	October 3, 1904	Methodist Episcopal
Oscar V. Svelberg	March 14, 1905	Swedish Baptist
E. G. Minger	April 12, 1905	Methodist Episcopal
H. P. Long	June 2, 1905	Methodist Episcopal
Charles A. Jevne	June 9, 1905	Congregational
Hiram A. McCoy	June 13, 1905	Latter Day Saints
Albert H. Bergford	July 7, 1905	Lutheran
John S. Paulson	July 18, 1905	Lutheran Free
J. G. Stille	July 27, 1905	Evangelical
O. G. Colgrove	August 10, 1905	Universalist
Claus C. Morgen	September 4, 1905	Lutheran Free
W. E. Wrapp	October 6, 1905	Baptist
Joseph Hagel	November 1, 1905	Catholic
Joseph Ambauen	January 15, 1906	Catholic

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Minister.	Date of Registration.	Denomination.
Ole I. Raoum	August 1, 1906	Immanuel Lutheran
Jacob L. Drage	August 31, 1906	Lutheran
Lauritz Nissen	October 2, 1906	Evangelical Lutheran
H. H. Feiertag	October 24, 1906	Evangelical Lutheran
C. M. Kennough	December 24, 1906	Methodist Episcopal
L. Radcliffe	March 8, 1907	Methodist Episcopal
J. S. Bixby	March 8, 1907	Methodist Episcopal
F. R. Reidel	March 22, 1907	Lutheran
L. Houghton	April 3, 1907	Latter Day Saints
D. Ristad	June 19, 1907	Norwegian Lutheran
James G. Ward	January 27, 1908	Episcopal
Harry D. Green	April 10, 1908	Methodist Episcopal
Carl H. Ekblad	May 26, 1908	Swedish Baptist
C. G. Chandler	June 20, 1908	Baptist
O. E. Johnson	July 30, 1908	Seventh-day Adventist
K. Gjesfeld	August 19, 1908	Lutheran Free
Neils Morstad	October 3, 1908	Lutheran Free
C. M. Wilcox	May 11, 1909	Baptist
H. Awiszus	August 5, 1909	German Evangelical
Joseph J. Jacobson	October 26, 1909	Lutheran
C. J. Mason	November 4, 1909	Methodist
O. Euget	April 20, 1910	Baptist
Henry Yxermans	April 20, 1910	Catholic
William Van Dinter	April 20, 1910	Catholic
E. Hindorff	July 27, 1910	Baptist
John O. Larson	August 3, 1910	Swedish Baptist
J. Jank	August 22, 1910	Evangelical Lutheran
Warren E. Peak	August 27, 1910	Latter Day Saints
Olav G. Aasen	September 1, 1910	Lutheran
John Keyzers	October 29, 1910	Catholic
A. J. Harris, D. D.	May 4, 1911	Presbyterian
John A. Johnson	June 2, 1911	Lutheran
A. G. Duenow	September 5, 1911	Evangelical Lutheran
Thomas Rorstad	September 27, 1911	United Lutheran
Conrad Hauman	December 23, 1911	Lutheran
J. F. Schumacker	September 24, 1912	Evangelical Lutheran
Edward Swanson	December 10, 1912	Missionary Association
E. L. Holland	March 22, 1913	Baptist
William Anderson	June 6, 1913	Presbyterian
O. P. Stavaas	June 23, 1913	United Lutheran
Carl J. Brun	July 15, 1913	Bethel Lutheran
Frank T. Erickson	July 18, 1913	Evangelical Lutheran
G. B. Sandager	July 28, 1913	Lutheran Free
John W. Wight	June 22, 1914	Latter Day Saints
G. A. Dahlquist	June 27, 1914	Baptist
William A. Quayle	August 15, 1914	Methodist Episcopal
O. E. Tucker	August 26, 1914	Latter Day Saints
Thomas G. Baxter	September 5, 1915	Congregational
Rolla G. Gale	October 6, 1914	Methodist Episcopal
Eilmer E. Shawl	October 20, 1914	Methodist Episcopal
John A. Johnson	December 23, 1914	Swedish Baptist

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Minister.	Date of Registration.	Denomination.
Julian E. Whiting	April 17, 1915	Lutheran Free
James Fletcher	April 20, 1915	Latter Day Saints
William M. Irwin	May 28, 1915	Nazarene
O. Shefveland	June 17, 1915	Lutheran
A. A. Larson	June 22, 1915	Evangelical Lutheran
W. E. Erickson	July 13, 1915	Evangelical Lutheran
Herbert T. Sockett	August 17, 1915	Presbyterian

The incorporation of religious bodies was first provided for in 1866, and this act was subsequently amended in 1873, 1878 and 1890. The first church in Otter Tail county to become incorporated under the laws of the state was the Latter Day Saints. The incorporation of this denomination was signed February 25, 1873, and filed with the clerk of the district court on February 26, 1872. The date of incorporation very rarely coincides with the organization of the church; for instance, the first church organized in Fergus Falls, the Swedish Baptist, was organized August 24, 1870, but was not incorporated until December 11, 1875. In other cases even a longer period elapsed between the dates of organization and incorporation. However, in many cases available information on the church must be taken from the incorporation articles.

Another thing is to be noted in regard to the official records in the court house. It is frequently noticed that the church at the present time is not known by the same name under which it was incorporated; in fact, the incorporated name is sometimes so misleading as to render it difficult to identify the history of the church under its name today. In many of the incorporation articles it is impossible to tell where the church is located.

The remainder of the church chapter is divided into two general parts, the first part being devoted to the histories of those churches which have furnished sufficient data to make a historical sketch, and the second part briefly summarizing the remaining churches of the county whose histories have been compiled from the church records in the court house.

THE FEDERATED CHURCH OF FERGUS FALLS.

The situation in Fergus Falls as to churches is somewhat peculiar, owing to the different nationalities here represented. The population being so largely foreign gives rather a limited field for American churches from which to draw. There are but four American churches out of eighteen in the city, namely: Presbyterian, Congregational, Methodist Episcopal and Episcopal. The German population is largely Catholic, while the Scandinavians are united with some of the numerous divisions of the Lutheran church. Each of the eighteen different denominations have pastors and most of them have church buildings.

The Presbyterian and Congregational churches, though first in the field,

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struggled along for years, hardly holding their own. The membership was small and it was difficult for both, so separated, to maintain themselves and render service to the community required from these organizations.

The idea of uniting the two churches and thus pooling their issues was periodically broached, but always came to naught because of the feud spirit reaching back through the years of their history. But the mere suggestion of union was a good symptom and indicated the dying out of old denominational jealousies, but enough of the sectarian troubles still lingered in the hearts or heads of the early bigots to prevent the consummation of so desirable a plan.

Not one in ten of the opponents to the union could tell the difference between the two churches. There is, practically, no difference outside the systems of church polity, nonessentials at most. While old personal differences were being forgotten by the younger generations, still the taint was there, and the idea of a merger wherein one name would have to be dropped, was an obstacle hard to overcome. The value of souls seemed insignificant to that of the name, and all attempts at union failed.

In 1910 Rev. Archibald J. Herries, D. D., of Tunkhannock, Pennsylvania, was called to the pastorate of the Presbyterian church. He was a man about fifty-five years of age, of great learning, liberal ideas, and a graduate of the Western Theological Seminary, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. The saving of men and leading the rising generation into ways of right thoughts and right living was more important in his eyes than any dogma or name attached to a particular church organization. He had not been here long before he had sized up the situation existing between the Presbyterian and Congregational churches. He saw the forces for good split up, divided and dissipated in the attempt to maintain two weak and struggling churches, both a unit as to fundamental doctrines, and only separated by some immaterial questions of polity.

He soon learned the history of the two churches from the beginning, and appreciated the tenacity with which each adhered to its own name. He did not attempt to overcome the prejudice, but conceived a plan for the federation of the two whereby each would retain its own name and corporate organization, but unite in church services, Sunday schools and all auxiliary organizations. With great tact and skill he unfolded his plans to the more liberal and less prejudiced members of each church and succeeded in having a plan adopted whereby the two would federate for a period of three years.

His project provided for a board of managers, six in number, to be elected by the joint federation. The budget plan of financing was adopted; all funds were to be turned into the treasury of the federation, and the separate benevolences of each church paid by the treasurer, as assessed and required of each according to membership. Sunday services were to be held

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in the Congregational church building and the mid-week meetings at the Presbyterian church. Other details were worked out in a like simple way and both organizations adopted, at their separate meetings, the plan proposed. It was named the Federated church of Fergus Falls.

At the end of the three years, May 1, 1914, the churches extended the federation for five years more. When the first federation period ended, Doctor Herries after he accomplished his work of uniting the two churches in the manner named, deemed it best for all concerned to resign his pastorate, which he did to the deep regret of his many friends. He returned to Pennsylvania and is now pastor of the Presbyterian church at New Milford in that state. The monument that stands to the credit of Doctor Herries is a prosperous and progressive church; a congregation limited to the seating capacity of the building; a good organist and choir, recognized as among the finest in northern Minnesota; a flourishing Sunday school; other auxiliary organizations including the Ladies' Federated Society, Ladies' Missionary Society, Senior Christian Endeavor Society, Junior Endeavor Society, and Boy Scouts; a financial condition hitherto unknown in either congregation, and lastly a united and enthusiastic body of workers never before known in the American churches of Fergus Falls.

The success of the federation has created much interest in other localities throughout the state where like conditions exist; and many inquiries are received from other churches looking towards a like union. It is to be hoped that the common-sense movement inaugurated in Fergus Falls by Doctor Herries may prove to have been seed sown on good ground, and yield abundantly.

Rev. E. T. Ferry of Claremont, Minnesota, was called as pastor of the Federated church in January, 1915.

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF FERGUS FALLS.

The First Congregational church of Fergus Falls, the second religious denomination to effect an organization in the town, dates its official beginning from March 3, 1872. The moving spirit in the organization of the church was Rev. L. Wolfsen who became the first pastor and continued in charge of the congregation until it was well organized. The charter members were Rev. L. Wolfsen, Mr. and Mrs. M. V. Austin, Mr. and Mrs. Newton H. Chittenden, Mrs. W. B. Warn, Mrs. E. W. Sims and Mrs. Frick.

For the first year or two the congregation was too weak to attempt the building of a church and held its services at the homes of its members or in halls in various parts of the town. At one time services were held in a hall over a saloon. This place of worship was soon abandoned as the cracks in the floor tempted the devout to look through and see drinks served to the

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ungodly by the bartenders in the room below. The first building was erected about the middle of the seventies on the site where the present brick structure stands on the corner of Union and Summit avenues.

It has been impossible to tell from the records the length of service of the several pastors who have had charge of the church since it was organized, but it is certain that they served in the following order: L. Wolfson, George A. Hood, D. Goodsell, J. E. Higgins, W. L. Sutherland, Henry N. Kinney, J. F. Taintor, C. E. Page, W. L. Sutherland, C. M. G. Haywood, W. C. A. Waller, J. W. Todd, Edward L. Brooks and H. S. Wiley. Reverend Wiley was pastor of the church in 1871 when it federated with the Presbyterian church in Fergus Falls. He favored the federation and generously resigned, leaving the federated congregation to select the pastor of their choice. The history of the Congregational church since May 1, 1911, is merged in that of the Federated church.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF FERGUS FALLS.

The history of the First Presbyterian church of Fergus Falls dates back to the spring of 1872, when the following petition was sent to the presbytery of St. Paul: "We, the undersigned, residents of Fergus Falls, Otter Tail county, state of Minnesota, and vicinity, respectfully request the presbytery of St. Paul to take early steps to form us and others uniting with us into Presbyterian church in your connection." To this petition the following names were signed: E. W. Dewey, Mary A. Dewey, Orley Gouldin, Martha E. Gouldin, Justus Pickit, Hannah M. Pickit and David Dewey. The petition is not dated, but it is certain that it was sent before the middle of May in 1872.

The next record in the history of the church is dated May 19, 1872, and this date may be taken as the official beginning of the church in Fergus Falls. On this day Rev. D. C. Lyon, of St. Paul, and Revs. I. W. Monfort and I. Farris, of Minneapolis, the three ministers being the committee appointed by the presbytery of St. Paul to organize a Presbyterian church in Fergus Falls, held religious services in the village. In the afternoon of the same day the church was formally organized under the name of the Olivet Presbyterian church, with the following charter members: Eli W. Dewey, Mary A. Dewey and David A. Dewey, from the Methodist church; Justus Pickit and Mrs. Hanna M. Pickit, from the Presbyterian church at St. Cloud; Orley Gouldin and Mrs. Martha E. Gouldin, from the Congregational church of Hopkinton, New York; Harry H. Conse and Luella E. Conse. It does not appear from the church records just when the name was changed to "First Presbyterian church," but presumably it was when it became incorporated under the laws of the state. The minutes of this first meeting state that E. W. Dewey and Justus Pickit were elected elders and that the sacra-

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ment was then "dispensed by Rev. I. Farris and Rev. Monfort and Rev. Wolfson of the Congregational church." It is interesting to note that at this first Presbyterian service in Fergus Falls there were "about sixty persons present, only one-fourth of whom were females, owing to the fact that the day was rainy and disagreeable."

The first regular pastor of the church was Rev. M. S. Goodale, D. D., of Amsterdam, New York, who, while never regularly installed as pastor, took charge of the church in September, 1872, and served the church off and on until 1874. The pastors of the church from that time until May 1, 1911, when the church united with the Congregationalists to form the Federated church, were as follow: O. W. Winchester, R. N. Adama, D. D., George C. Pollock, D. D., Elliott H. Moore, O. P. Rider, Thomas O. Whittles and Archibald J. Herries, D. D. When the Presbyterian and Congregational churches federated in May, 1911, they selected Doctor Herries as their first pastor. The history of this church from May 1, 1911, is merged in that of the Federated church. Rev. E. T. Perry is the regular pastor of the Presbyterian church, and, by election, the pastor of the Federated church.

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCHES.

The Liggett Memorial Presbyterian church of Clitherall was organized July 25, 1909, by Mr. and Mrs. A. Gustafson, Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Reed, Mrs. Predmore, Mrs. Tallman, Mrs. Langness and June Tallman. The congregation of twenty-five members has a beautiful little church which was erected at a cost of twenty-five hundred dollars. The congregation is not sufficiently strong to engage a pastor of their own, and have been served by students studying for the ministry. The present pastor is F. O. Bostrem, who was furnished the church through the home mission department. A Sunday school, Young People's Society and Ladies' Aid are valuable factors in the life of the church, and each of these auxiliaries is given the heartiest support of the members of the congregation.

The Presbyterian church of Almora was organized November 1, 1905, although an organization of the members of this particular faith had been in existence for several years prior to this time. The present house of worship was erected in 1899, at a cost of fifteen hundred dollars by S. F. Sharpless, pastor-at-large of the Red River presbytery. The congregation is served by students studying for the ministry, the church at present being in charge of F. O. Bostrom. The charter members of the church were Mr. and Mrs. Aldrich, Mrs. R. Alexander, Mrs. S. Stone, Vernon Alexander, Mrs. G. D. Taylor, Henry W. Hanning, Mrs. Lydia Hanning and Ophelia Thompson. The membership at the present time numbers twelve.

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF NEW YORK MILLS.

The First Congregational church of New York Mills was organized in

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1903, with the following charter members: Mrs. C. W. Fiske, Mrs. V. C. Rector, Mrs. A. Sawyer, Mrs. Matthew Telia, Mrs. Julia Hart, Margaret Hart, Mrs. W. A. Miller and Mrs. Nelson Hart. Since the establishment of the church the following pastors have served the congregation: W. J. Conard, of Park Rapids; E. E. Lindsley, of Wadena; Donald F. Hall, of Fargo, and James T. Plant, of Detroit, the latter being the present pastor.

The church owns a frame building, which was erected shortly after the organization of the church, at a cost of two thousand dollars. The church supports a Sunday school, a Christian Endeavor Society and a Ladies' Aid Society. The present membership of the congregation is ten.

SWEDISH EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCHES.

The Swedish Evangelical Lutheran church of Fergus Falls.—The Swedes began to settle in Otter Tail county as early as 1869, and in Fergus Falls as soon as the village was platted. The Swedish Lutheran church in Fergus Falls was organized in 1877 by Rev. S. J. Kronberg, now residing near Melby, Minnesota, but then traveling missionary in the northwest. Charles Jackson, L. P. Halinquist, John Swanson and S. J. Nylander, with their families, became charter members. The first church building, erected in 1883, was a small frame structure in the southwestern part of the city. In 1910 a new and commodious church was built of red pressed brick at the corner of Mill street and Bismarck avenue at a cost of fifteen thousand dollars, with a seating capacity of four hundred. A modern pipe organ costing two thousand dollars was installed in 1915.

Rev. L. P. Stenstrom, now residing near Elizabeth, was the first pastor in regular charge of the church, which position he held for years. Rev. P. Sjoblom, D. D., then president of the Minnesota Conference, was the first resident pastor. He served the congregation faithfully for eight years. Rev. Louis Johnson was called in 1895 and he worked successfully for thirteen years. Rev. James Moody, the present pastor, has served the church since 1908.

The church membership is now one hundred seventy, with a Sunday school of fifty. The Ladies' Aid, the Luther League and the Men's Society are very active church organizations. They take care of the social side of the church work and help along financially to a large extent.

Northwestern College, a school belonging to the Swedish Lutheran denomination, was located in Fergus Falls in 1900. Since that time the sphere of activity of the church has been greater and its influence has been felt in wider circles. The teachers and students of the college assist largely in making the church organizations more effective. The church is growing and promises to be among the largest in the Red River Valley conference.

The Central Swedish Evangelical Lutheran church of Erhard is located

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in section 2 of the township of Erhards Grove. Its formal organization dates from April 9, 1877, at which time the members of this faith living in this vicinity met and agreed to form a church. For the first seven years (1877-84) the services were held in the homes of the members. In 1884 a frame building was erected at a cost of three thousand dollars, and two years later the church was incorporated.

The church has now been in existence nearly forty years, and during all that time it has had only two pastors. S. J. Kromberg served from 1877 to 1881, and since that date the present pastor, L. P. Stenstrom, has had charge of the congregation, a period of service extending over thirty-five years. The church has always had a prosperous membership and now enrolls two hundred sixty communicants. A Sunday school, Young People's Society and Ladies' Aid are maintained, and these auxiliaries are prominent factors in advancing the general interests of the chruch.

The Swedish Evangelical Lutheran church of Elizabeth was organized August 9, 1877, by a number of adherents of the faith then living in or near the village. The year following the organization of the congregation a frame building was erected at a cost of two thousand three hundred dollars. S. J. Kromberg was the first pastor, and he continued in charge of the church until 1881, when the present pastor, L. P. Stenstrom, assumed charge. The church has enjoyed a steady growth and now has an active membership of one hundred and fourteen. Various auxiliary organizations are maintained and perform efficient service in their respective spheres. The church has been incorporated since 1894.

The Swedish Evangelical Lutheran Pease Prairie church of Henning Township was organized October 9, 1887, by the following charter members: Mr. and Mrs. Nels Nelson, Christian Nelson, Mr. and Mrs. Ahlberg, Maria Nelson, Charlotta Nelson, Andrew Nelson, Mrs. Andrew Nelson, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Nelson, Mr. Svenson, J. M. Svenson and Mrs. J. M. Ahlberg. The congregation now numbers seventy. The following pastors have served the congregation: John Hallstrom, Fred Lindblom, Charles Hoard, Gustaf Hallgren, H. P. Sundberg, John Rosen, Anton Nelson, John Lundeen, C. A. Lindahl, E. Hindorff and Gustaf A. Dahlquist, who is now serving the church. The church has a house of worship and parsonage which were erected a few years ago at a cost of twenty-five hundred dollars.

The church was incorporated January 21, 1893, at a meeting held in the school house of district number 122 in the township of Henning, where the society was then holding its services. A. Johnson was elected chairman of the meeting, and A. G. Nelson, clerk. The ten members present at the meeting selected B. Swanberg, C. P. Lindgren and L. Mollerstrom, trustees.

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The pastor is assisted in his work by the Sunday school, a Young People's Society and a Ladies' Missionary Society.

The Swedish Evangelical Lutheran church of Parkers Prairie was organized in 1871 and was incorporated December 27, 1882. At that time Nels P. Nyman, Peter M. Lijengren and Adolph Carlson were elected trustees, and John N. Nelson, Nels Malmguen and Anders P. Rosenquist were elected deacons. John N. Nelson was chairman of the meeting and John A. Hankinson was secretary. The church stands two miles east of the village but has always been known as the Parkers Prairie church. This is one of the few log churches still standing in the county, and, according to the report of the officials of the church, it, with the other property of the church, is valued at five thousand seven hundred dollars. The present membership is three hundred sixty. The following pastors have served the congregation: Revs. Magni, Lundblad, Carlson, Johnson, Melin, Leaf, and O. Wallin, who is now in charge of the church.

The Swedish Evangelical Lutheran congregation of Eastern is located in section 26, of Eastern township, nine miles east and south of the village of Parkers Prairie. It was organized in 1893 and was incorporated on January 18 of that year at a meeting held at the home of David Nelson. On this date there were eleven members of the congregation present, and after organizing by selecting the Rev. L. Johnson, chairman, and L. Peterson, clerk, the following persons were elected trustees: David Nelson, P. Erikson and H. Sjobeck.

The church has been served by four different pastors during its existence, namely: Revs. Johnson, Melin, Leaf and O. Wallin. The congregation numbers two hundred seventy-four communicants and is one of the largest Lutheran congregations of the county. The church building is a substantial frame structure which was erected a few years ago at a cost of five thousand dollars. With such a large membership the church maintains a flourishing Sunday school, and various other auxiliary organizations. Young people's societies and missionary societies are doing efficient work in the service of the church.

GERMAN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN TRINITY CHURCH OF FERGUS FALLS.

The German Evangelical Lutheran Trinity church of Fergus Falls was established in 1873, the congregation at that time forming one church with two others in the Friberg township and Elizabeth village, respectively. It was not until 1896 that the local Trinity congregation became self-supporting. The charter members of the church were only four in number, namely: Henry Tomhave, Ferdinand Schroeder, Carl Haarstick and Peter Tomhave. The present membership numbers three hundred fifty.

The pastors from the time the church was organized, in 1873, until until 1896, had charge of the congregations at Elizabeth and in Friberg

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township. These were six in number: H. Vetter, R. Winkler, J. Krueger, C. Engel, H. Lossner and George Matzat. H. Reinhardt was the first resident pastor of the church in Fergus Falls. He was followed by J. C. Meyer, who gave way to H. H. Feiertag in 1907. Rev. Feiertag resigned as pastor of the church in March, 1916, to accept a call to the superintendency of the Evangelical Lutheran Sanitarium at Wheat Ridge, Colorado.

The first constitution and articles of incorporation of the church were adopted by the congregation in 1882 and filed for record on the 17th of July. The trustees at that time were G. W. Faver, Henry Tomhave and Ferdinand Schroeder. It should be mentioned that Trinity is affiliated with the Evangelical Lutheran synod of Missouri, Ohio and other states, the largest Lutheran church body in the United States.

The house of worship is located at No. 201 Union avenue north. A Sunday school is maintained; a Ladies' Aid Society does efficient work; a parochial school, with an attendance of forty pupils, is under the direction of J. Schulz.

OUR SAVIOUR'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH.

The Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran church of Fergus Falls, locally known as Vor Frelser's (Our Saviour's) church, was organized October 11, 1872, with Louis Benson as the sole charter member. Mr. Benson is still living in Fergus Falls. When the church was incorporated on the 28th of the same month Christian Johnson, Louis Benson and S. Tjoser were given as trustees. Pastor J. A. Bergh and Deacon J. H. Johnson acknowledged the incorporation articles before the clerk of the district court. Little is known of the early history of the church. The pastors from its organization down to the present time have served in the following order, their respective tenures not being obtainable: J. A. Bergh, N. Iverson, J. Svenoe, A. Wald, T. Tjornhorn, L. E. Kleppe and Thomas Rorstad, the present pastor.

During its history of forty-four years its membership has increased from one to four hundred sixty. The Sunday school of one hundred twenty-five members is one of the most important auxiliaries of the church. There is also a Young People's Society of fifty, a Junior League of thirty, a Ladies' Aid of sixty and an organization for little girls called Busy Bees.

The congregation has a handsome brick house of worship at 102 Junius avenue west which was erected a few years ago at a cost of ten thousand dollars. A two-story frame parsonage stands close to the church.

BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF FERGUS FALLS.

The Bethel Lutheran church of Fergus Falls has been organized only a short time but it already has an active membership of sixty. Its services thus far have been held in a hall, but the congregation is now erecting a beautiful house of worship which will cost five thousand dollars by the time

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it is completed. C. J. Brun has been the pastor of the church since its organization. A Sunday school with a membership of thirty, a Young People's Society of thirty-five, and a Ladies' Aid of eighteen, are important adjuncts of the church.

BETHANIA NORWEGIAN LUTHERAN CHURCH OF FERGUS FALLS.

The Bethania Norwegian Lutheran church of Fergus Falls was organized in the spring of 1892 by the following charter members: Mr. and Mrs. Theodore Johnson, Mr. and Mrs. L. Leinan, Mr. and Mrs. Johannes Bjertnes, Mrs. Anna Stang and Mrs. Marie Benson. The congregation has no church building yet, but holds its services at Bethania hall, No. 226 Bismarck avenue east. The church owns a parsonage at No. 214 Bismarck avenue west, valued at twenty-five hundred dollars.

Anton Larson was the first pastor of the church and served from 1902 to 1908. Knut Gjesfjeld had charge of the congregation for the following three years, being succeeded in 1911 by Ludwig Pederson. Rev. Pederson remained with the church only one year. Tobias Tekse has served as pastor since 1912.

The church was incorporated June 14, 1904, with the following officers: Anton L. Larson, president; Theodore Johnson, secretary; Samuel Johnson, Iver J. Voyum and Lars Leinan, trustees. The church has a Sunday school, a young ladies society and a missionary society, all three of these auxiliaries working for the general good of the church. The membership numbers thirty.

NORWEGIAN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCHES.

The Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran congregation of Aastad is located in the southeastern corner of section 21 of Aastad township. It was organized January 29, 1890, by A. E. Soliah, Erik H. Bergerud, C. H. Bergerud, S. H. Bergerud, Helge Elefson and Ole T. Bjorka. During the twenty-six years this church has been in existence it has had only two pastors, A. J. Hueteng and K. Skyberg, the latter having served the church for the past several years. The church has a building which cost seventy-five hundred dollars to erect, and two thousand dollars to equip with furniture. The membership of one hundred and eighty-eight is composed of the leading citizens of the community. Various auxiliary societies are maintained, each contributing its share toward the general advancement of the work of the church.

Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran church of Battle Lake.—The first Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran church in Battle Lake, or in fact, in that part of the county, had its inception at a meeting of Norwegian settlers on September 14, 1873, at the home of Anders Oestby. The purpose for

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which this meeting was called was to discuss plans for the organization of a Lutheran congregation in this vicinity. All who met on this day were in favor of taking such a step and before the meeting closed some of the settlers signed their names as members of the proposed congregation. Thus this date may be taken as the formal establishment of the first Lutheran church in this part of the county. It happened that on this particular day, the Rev. J. A. Bergh, of Fergus Falls, was present and he was elected pastor of the church at the munificent salary of twenty-four dollars a year. The sterling settlers who signed their names as members were Anders Oestby (who was made secretary), F. Finkelson, J. Larson Frislov, Carl Nelson and Ole Hoff.

Nearly ten years were to elapse before the members felt able to erect a house of worship, and during this period they worshipped at the homes of the members of the congregation. It was not until February 20, 1882, that the initial steps were taken to provide a church building. At a business meeting on this date it was decided to build a church fifty-four by twenty-eight feet, and to this end a committee composed of Anders Oestby, Andrew Larson, L. Engerud and A. Peterson was chosen to have charge of the work of construction. Hans Gilbertson and L. Crogan were made a financial committee and authorized to solicit donations for the proposed building, the members present at the business meeting subscribing two hundred and twenty-five dollars.

The next question to decide was the location of the building. This was done at a special meeting held on the 17th of the following July, when it was decided to build the church on the southeast corner of the land donated by Rev. Iver Tharaldson for a cemetery. At this second meeting it was decided to erect a chancel, sixteen feet square, and an entry, six by twelve feet. Work on the building was rapidly pushed to completion and in January, 1883, the congregation was able to hold its first meeting in the church, although it was not fully completed until the summer of 1884.

But the building erected with so many sacrifices on the part of its loyal members was soon to be so nearly destroyed by a storm that it was necessary to tear it down and rebuild it. This happened in 1888 and it was a year before it was again ready for use. The second building was erected on the same plan as the first, except that the chancel and entry were made larger. In addition a steeple sixty feet high was placed above the entry way. When the building was first erected its entrance was toward the south, but when it was rebuilt it was turned so that the entrance was toward the east.

This building continued to be the home of the congregation until 1915. For some years prior to that time it was felt that additional room was

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necessary, but the congregation could not agree on the method of providing it. The final decision was made at a business meeting held in March, 1915, when it was decided to move the church from the old site to a more central part of town and put it on a full baesment. Lots were purchased at once and the work of making the proposed changes was placed in hands of a committee composed of P. N. Lundquist, H. C. Hektner, P. L. Larson, J. G. Peterson, Ole M. Johnson, Andrew Bjork and B. T. Pederson. These members performed their duties to the entire satisfaction of the congregation and before the end of the year the work was done and the church ready for occupancy.

As has been mentioned, the first pastor of the infant church was Rev. J. A. Bergh and he served the faithful little band for the first year of their existence. He was followed by Rev. Iver Tharaldson, who remained with the congregation until 1881. Since that time the following pastors have had charge: T. Moen, 1881-91; B. B. Haugan, 1892-93; E. Berlie, 1893-94; Olaf Ellingson, 1894-1901; Johan Mattson, 1908-13; Gustav Sandanger, 1913 to the present time. To the present generation it may be a surprise to know of the amount of work done by the early pastors of the church. Rev. Tharaldson, who served the church for seven years (1874-81), also had charge of five other churches and in those days, with practically no roads, it was no small task to make the trip from one charge to another. It is to the credit of these faithful and self-sacrificing men of God of a past generation that we of today have so many well established churches in Otter Tail county.

It is appropriate in the brief historical sketch to give the names of the faithful secretaries who have so well performed their duties for the past forty-three years. They have served in the following order: Anders Oestby, C. A. Larson, L. Engerud, N. O. Nygaard, Christian Berg, Clement Crogan, Nils Erickson, Andreas Peterson, and Dr. H. C. Hektner, the present holder of the office. In 1893 the congregation was incorporated under the laws of the state.

When the church started out in the early seventies practically all of the work devolved on the pastor, but with the advancing years the members have taken various duties on themselves and in their many auxiliary movements are making the church a much more potent force for good in the community. The Sunday school is a comparatively recent institution, but its value now is recognized as second only to that of the pastor in the pulpit. The Ladies' Aid dates back nearly to the beginning of the church itself, and these loyal mothers of Israel have worked patiently and quietly, though none the less effectively, all these years that the church might realize its greatest possibilities. They are not only a prominent factor in the financial support

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of their home church, but their influence has been felt in foreign lands where their money has been the means of spreading the Gospel among the heathen. The Young People's Society is an organization which seeks to interest the young people in the work of the church and thereby prepare them to take the place of their elders in the future years. Another little band bears the distinctive title of the Cheerful Helpers, and this group of little girls in especially interested in the foreign missionary fields.

Enough has been said to set forth the place this church has in the life of the community it is trying to serve to the best of its ability. Its membership of nearly two hundred and fifty is composed of men and women who believe in the work of their church and are willing to make sacrifices so that its influence may spread that peace on earth and good will toward men which makes life worth living.

The Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran church of Norwegian Grove, locally called Lile Bethania, is located in section 6 of that township, and has been in existence for thirty years, its formal organization dating from March 27, 1886. The congregation of fifty members owns a frame house of worship valued at two thousand dollars, and forty acres of land worth about fifteen hundred dollars. The pastors of this church have been only two in number, H. A. Gaardsmoe (1886-96) and U. D. Johnsen from 1896 to the present time. The church maintains various auxiliaries for the advancement of its work.

The Hedemarken Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran church is located on the northwestern quarter of section 27, Oscar township. This church was established at this place before Oscar township was a part of Otter Tail county, the first preaching being at the house of Iver Skistad on November 24, 1870. This was probably the first service held in the west part of Otter Tail county and it is interesting to note that on this date Rev. T. Vetleson of St. Olaf, who held the service, baptized ten children. Some of these children are still living, among them being Anna Lokken, a daughter of Peter Lokken, now Mrs. Youngberg, Adel K. Bye, Margit Fetvedt, Marie Satheren, now Anton Dahl and Helge Moen.

Some time during the seventies Svenning Fetvedt donated five acres from his homestead for a building lot for the church and a cemetery. It was not until the following spring that the organization of the church was perfected. According to the best records available it appears that at a meeting held on April 24, 1871, at the house of Ole O. Sletvold, the church formally began its career. Among the charter members may be mentioned Ole O. Sletvold, Sr., the Nestor of the settlement, K. A. Bye, Peter Lokken, I. O. Satheren, Peter H. Satheren, Svennung Fetvedt, Fred Fjestad, Casper Lein, M. O. Hagen, Ole Haug, E. Sletvold, John Spidalen, M. Halvorson

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and others. There may have been other charter members but the first records being kept on loose papers, some of the records have been lost, and the complete list of the earliest members is not possible to obtain.

The first building was erected as early as 1872, a log structure whose component parts were furnished and put up by the members themselves. The present building was erected in 1873, the main part being forty-eight by thirty-four feet, with a steeple and an addition for the altar. The second church, a frame structure, was built by Halvor Back, of Fergus Falls, at a cost of four thousand dollars. The church was incorporated June 4, 1877, at which time Sver Hysjilier, John Spidalen, Casper Lein and Frederick Fjestad.

The following ministers have served Hedemarken church since it was established in 1870: T. Vetleson, 1870-72; T. Rosholdt, 1872-78; in 1878 Hedemarken, together with Hamar of Rothsay, was served as a charge by itself by S. Svennungsen, 1878-83; since 1883 M. Langeland has had charge of both churches.

The present membership of the church is two hundred and twenty-two and of these one hundred and fifty-two are confirmed members. A Ladies' Aid Society has worked faithfully for the maintenance of the church, besides aiding the different missions of the Norwegian synod.

The Hamar Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran church was established in the early seventies in the southwestern corner of the township of Trondhjem, but was later moved to the village of Rothsay in Wilkin county. The members are about equally divided between Otter Tail and Wilkin counties. Rev. T. Rosholdt of Norwegian Grove began preaching at the homes of the Norwegian settlers in the southern part of Trondhjem township as early as 1873. The formal organization of the church was perfected at the home of Casper H. Rudh on June 1, 1874, at which time Hamar started with twenty charter members: T. O. Gronseth, A. G. Flatin, Haakon Halvorsen, Paul Halvorsen, Ole O. Gronseth, L. O. Honerud, K. C. Gulson, O. P. Rudshagen, Gilbert Engelson, T. Kantrud, M. L. Heggen, O. T. Nordmarken, P. L. Paulson, K. Tanberg, A. R. Johnson, F. Fosse, G. H. Kantrud, John Kantrud, Gunder Kantrud and Casper H. Rudh.

The first church was built of logs in the southwest corner of Trondhjem county, and this was in use until about 1885, when it was abandoned for a more pretentious structure which had been just erected at the village of Rothsay. The village was more centrally located for the members of the congregation than the first location, and it has been maintained in that place since it was located there in 1885. H. Back, of Fergus Falls, built the frame church in Rothsay in 1885, the building costing six thousand dollars. A

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few years later a fine basement was added to the building and many other improvements have been made from time to time.

The church has been served by the following ministers: T. Rosholdt, 1873-78; S. Svennungsen, 1873-83; Langland, 1883-1916. The church has a membership of three hundred and fifty-six, of which number, two hundred and forty-four are confirmed members. A Ladies' Aid, a Young Ladies' Society and a large Young People's Society are important auxiliaries of the church, and are doing their share toward bettering the religious life of the community. These organizations are also active factors in helping to finance the church and are also very much interested in the support of missions.

The Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran church of Fergus Falls, locally known as the Zion Lutheran church, was established by the following charter members: G. O. Nordmarken, Andrew Pederson, Julius Ryen, M. H. Stand and Carl Stang. The congregation, which now numbers one hundred, has a substantial frame house of worship at No. 117 Julius avenue east, erected at a cost of forty-five hundred dollars. The church is fitted up with a parlor, class-room and kitchen in the basement.

The church was incorporated December 22, 1902, the names of the following members appearing in the articles: Andrew Pederson, C. Syverson, G. O. Nordmarken, J. J. Rendahl and M. H. Stang. The church is doing effective work through its various auxiliary organizations, among them being the Sunday school, Ladies' Aid Society, Helping Hand Society, Young Ladies' Aid Society and Young People's Society.

HAUGES EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF AURDAL.

The Hauges Evangelical Lutheran church of Aurdal, located in section 21 of Aurdal township, and locally known as the Vang Lutheran, was organized by J. P. Qvinlog, J. L. Mangerud, Hans Hvasse and H. O. Haugen. The church was incorporated February 29, 1888, under the name of the "Hauges Evangelical Lutheran Church at Aurdal." On that date Martin Vik, Martin Fyhie and J. L. Mangerud were elected trustees of the church. The congregation has a substantial frame building which was erected at a cost of two thousand dollars. The following pastors have served the church since its organization: Reverends Kasa, B. B. Haugen, J. J. Rendall and J. M. Johnson, the present pastor. With a membership of eighty the congregation has sufficient strength to be a potent factor for good in the community which it seeks to serve. A Sunday school, Young People's Society and a Ladies' Aid Society are prominent factors in the work of the church.

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EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH OF SVERDRUP.

The Evangelical Free Church of Sverdrup is located in section 23 of that township, and dates its organization from February 14, 1885. Its charter members were Ole Aune, Ole. O. Stampro, Hans O. Aune, Ole T. Stampro, Ole Nygaard, Otto Nilsby and Mikkel J. Rindal. Rev. L. O. Nygaard has served this church since its organization thirty-one years ago. The church has a frame building, which was erected at a cost of seven hundred dollars. The present membership is thirty-two. The church incorporated April 1, 1901, at which time the congregation chose Mikkel J. Rindal, L. O. Nygaard and Ole O. Stampro as trustees.

GRACE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF FERGUS FALLS.

The Grace Methodist Episcopal church of Fergus Falls was organized in 1871. The earliest record does not give the name of the pastor who first had charge of the church, simply stating that the church was "to be supplied." The first regular pastor, Rev. A. L. Tull, came in 1873 and remained one year. The church was incorporated August 30, 1873, but it was not until 1874 that the congregation was able to erect a building. During that year the church, under the leadership of the pastor, Rev. C. L. Libby, succeeded in building a modest little house of worship on the site now occupied by Garwin Livery stable. This was used until 1883, when the second building was erected, largely through the efforts of Rev. W. Moyes Martin, the pastor. The erection of this second building left the congregation with a debt which it bore for a quarter of a century. In fact, it was not until January, 1908, that the mortgage was finally burned. It was very natural that the people should rejoice in being freed of their financial burden, but their joy was short lived.

Four months after the last dollar was paid on the mortgage the church building burned to the ground. It seemed that the burden of the congregation was more than it could bear, but it took such a catastrophe to rouse the congregation of three hundred and fifty to its greatest efforts. The old mortgage had been paid off through the efforts of Rev. Charles H. Flesher, and under his leadership the people began the task of rebuilding the church. Within the following year the present beautiful brick church, at No. 126 Union avenue north, was completed and dedicated. The building cost twenty-three thousand dollars and it is entirely free from debt. The congregation also owns a modern parsonage at No. 414 Union avenue west. A pipe organ was installed in February, 1916, at the cost of three thousand dollars.

The records of the church do not give the exact tenure of the various pastors of the church, but it is certain that they have served in the following order: A. L. Tull, C. L. Libby, J. B. Furman, C. B. Brecourt, Peter Claire,

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J. W. Cathcard, W. Moyes Martin, J. B. Hingeley, C. R. Kellerman, S. Ellery, Richard C. Gross, Thomas Hamby, C. B. Brecourt, J. H. Cudlipp, R. H. Craig, J. G. Morrison, Charles H. Flesher, S. L. Parish, Jesse T. Dodds and Elmer E. Shawl.

In addition to the regular church services in charge of the pastor, the church maintains no less than eight auxiliary organizations, all of which are performing their specific duties in an able and efficient manner. These organizations are as follow: Sunday school, Epworth League, Junior Epworth League, Ladies' Aid Society, Woman's Foreign Missionary Society, King's Heralds and Light Bearers, Woman's Home Missionary Society and Queen Esther Circle.

SWEDISH BAPTIST CHURCHES.

The Swedish Baptist church of Fergus Falls was organized August 24, 1870, with twelve charter members. The initial meeting was held in a small log cabin in the southern part of the village, later known as Gottland, and here on this quiet evening in the fall of the year the first church in Fergus Falls began its career. The village was still in its swaddling clothes, in fact, it could hardly be called a village at all, but there was a sufficiently large number of people to establish a religious organization, probably the first one in the village. Rev. O. Ockerson, at that time a missionary whose field was in the northwestern part of Minnesota, was present on this memorable evening and assisted in the organization of the little band of faithful men and women into a church. Only one, Christian Johnson, is left in Fergus Falls of the twelve charter members; two others are living elsewhere: Mrs. Sven Helander, of Grand Rapids, Michigan, and Charles Halberg, living in the vicinity of Topeka, Kansas. The other nine charter members were Mr. and Mrs. Nils Dahlberg, Mr. and Mrs. Nels Peterson, Mr. and Mrs. Abraham Halberg, Mr .and Mrs. John Laus and Charles Lindell.

The services were held in private homes or in halls until 1875, when a building was erected on Bismarck avenue east at a cost of eight hundred dollars. This same building was sold in the great boom year of 1882 for two thousand one hundred dollars; later, it was remodeled as a dwelling house and is still used as such, now standing at 113 Bismarck avenue east. Before it was sold in 1882 it was used for court purposes at times and at least one famous murder trial, State vs. J. H. Saunders, was tried in the church while it was serving as a court room. With the money derived from the sale of the building, the congregation erected a second house of worship the same year (1882) at the corner of Court street and Bancroft avenue, the total cost being twenty-five hundred dollars. This building was used until 1911, when it was sold and the present beautiful brick structure on Court

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street was erected at a cost of twelve thousand dollars. A parsonage was erected in the summer of 1915 at a cost of twenty-five hundred dollars.

The congregation has been served by fourteen pastors during the forty-six years of its existence. Their names and dates of service follow: O. Ockerson, 1870-76; A. A. Line, 1876-81; M. Dahlquist, 1881-82; John Halstrom, 1883-85; A. G. Hall, 1886-89; C. E. Malm, 1890-92; N. J. Tarnquist, 1892-94; R. A. Clint, 1895-98; F. J. Liljegren, 1898-1901; J. N. Soderstrom, 1901-03; C. E. Wedholm, 1904-07; C. H. Ekblad, 1907-09; J. O. Larson, 1910-15; J. C. Johnson, 1915, the present pastor.

The present membership is one hundred and eighty-five; since the church was established in 1870 it has enrolled no less than five hundred members. This church has been instrumental in establishing four other congregations: Eagle Lake, Oscar, Campbell and Friberg. These churches are referred to as "Daughter churches" from the fact that they were organized by members who were formerly attached to the congregation in Fergus Falls.

The local congregation has a well organized Sunday school of one hundred and forty, divided into nine graded classes. There is also a very active young people's society with over forty members, which meets for educational, devotional and social purposes every week. The church also has two missionary societies, one for the matrons and the other for the unmarried women of the congregation. These societies both have regular monthly meetings. The church services are made more attractive because of the excellent music furnished by a well trained chorus.

The records of the church treasurer show that in its different activities the church has collected and paid out for missions and other benevolent purposes the sum of sixty thousand dollars. This large amount represents the total free will offerings for the past forty-six years. It is safe to say that a church with such a record has been a most potent factor in the life of the community.

The Swedish Baptist church of Amor is located in section 17 of Amor township, and has a comfortable frame building which was erected a short time after the church was organized in 1901. It has never had a large congregation, its present membership numbering only eleven members, but it has struggled valiantly to fulfifill its mission in the community which it seeks to serve. Its pastors have been as follow: Charles Hoard, Peter Lovene, Oscar Svedberg, C. A. Lindahl, E. Hindorf and Gustav A. Dahlquist, who is now serving the church. A Sunday school and Ladies' Aid Society are doing their share in advancing the work of the church in their respective lines of activity.

The Swedish Baptist church of Aurdal is located in section 2 of the

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township of the same name, and dates its organization from March 30, 1895. Its charter members were August Sandberg, S. Sandberg, Johanna Sandberg, Elizabeth Sandberg, Charles Sandberg, Ida Sandberg, L. Hanson, Emma Hanson, Axel Hanson, ——— Hanson, John Hall and Louise Hall. The pastors of the church have been as follow: Oman P. Loven, Oscar Swedberg, L. E. Petterson and J. A. Johnson, who is now the pastor of the church. The congregation has a frame house of worship which was erected several years ago at a cost of nine hundred dollars. The present membership numbers twenty.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF FERGUS FALLS.

The articles of incorporation of the First Baptist church of Fergus Falls were formulated and adopted by the congregation at a meeting held in their regular place of worship, June 4, 1883. These articles were signed by the following: Davis Burbank, M. R. Burbank, W. G. Burbank, Robert Clapperton, E. J. Woodham, Mrs. E. J. Woodham, George W. Perkins, J. C. Owells, Fannie E. Owells, Mrs. M. C. Owells, Mrs. A. Hilton, Miss Emma E. Knowles, R. W. Arnold, A. J. Elkins, A. Hilton and F. S. Owells. The congregation bought a small building which stood the ground now occupied by the Methodist church, which building was formerly occupied as the printing office of the *Fergus Falls Advocate*. This remained the church home as long as they maintained their organization, a period of less than ten years. Reverend Sullivan was the first minister. He was succeeded by Rev. C. A. Foote, now of Minneapolis. In a few years the congregation saw that there was not room for another church and wisely decided to abandon their organization and ally themselves with the other Protestant denomination in the city. They sold their building and lot to the Methodist Episcopal church.

PEOPLE'S UNION CHURCH OF SCAMBLER.

The People's Union church of Scambler is undoubtedly the most unique church in Otter Tail county. In 1909 there met at the home of Mrs. J. H. Page, of Dunn township, a dozen women from the surrounding community to celebrate a birthday anniversary. In the course of the day someone mentioned the advisability, as well as the feasibility, of the community having a church. The result of the discussion on that particular day was a definite plan on the part of the women present to form an organization and build a church of their own. A month later at the home of Mrs. S. D. Rider, in Scambler township, these zealous women perfected an organization, limiting the membership to the women of Scambler, Dunn and Pelican townships. At this second meeting they completed their plans for raising money to build a church. And this was in 1909.

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Six years later this little band of women had the satisfaction of seeing the beautiful little church completed and dedicated to the service of the community in which it was located. During these six years these faithful women, all communicants of different religious denominations in the three townships mentioned, worked together to raise the money for the erection of this church. When they were ready to build they incorporated as a Ladies' Aid Society, forever barring any denomination from owning or having any control over the building. Its doors were to be open to any denomination desiring to make use of it, the only stipulation being that the English-speaking people of the immediate vicinity should be entitled to the first choice of service.

This church stands on an acre of land in Scambler township, donated by Mrs. S. D. Rider. The building itself is a modern structure, thirty by forty-two feet, with a concrete basement under the entire building. The church was dedicated, September 26, 1915, without a dollar of debt and with money in the treasury. The dedicatory sermon was preached by Rev. T. A. Hawks, pastor of the Congregational church of Pelican Rapids. Reverend Buttedahl, pastor of the Zion Lutheran church, of Dunn township, made a short address. The church is known as the People's Union church. It employs no minister, and in fact it cannot, according to the conditions under which the church was built. It started out with thirty-two charter members.

ST. JAMES EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF FERGUS FALLS.

The St. James Episcopal church of Fergus Falls was organized in 1872, but owing to the absence of all the records of the church prior to 1888, when they were destroyed by fire, the names of the charter members and other facts incident to the history of the church during that period are lacking. The church was incorporated January 12, 1884, but prior to that time it had erected a house of worship at its present site, No. 323 Court street north. The congregation owns a fine parsonage at No. 314 Whitford street north. The pastors of the church since 1872 have served in the following order: George Stewart, 1872-76; J. T. Osborn, 1876-78; George E. Swan, 1878-81; F. B. Nash, 1882-85; Samuel Mills, 1885-88; C. T. Rollit, 1889-95; A. O. Worthing, 1896-1904; Carl Reed Taylor, 1905-07; J. G. Ward, 1907-14; S. J. Hedelund, 1915, the present pastor. The congregation now numbers one hundred and twenty members. Among the auxiliary societies of the church can be mentioned the Sunday school, St. Agnes Altar Guild, St. James Guild and the Woman's Auxiliary.

ZION CHURCH OF DALTON.

The Zion church of Dalton represents a new departure in the religious life of Otter Tail county. It is an admitted fact that many communities are

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trying to support too many churches, and one of the signs of the times is the federation or union in some way of denominations in restricted localities. One of the cases of this kind is to be found in the little village of Dalton in the township of Tumuli. In the immediate vicinity there are members of three Norwegian churches representing as many branches of the Lutheran church but no one of the churches is strong enough to maintain a congregation in the village of Dalton. With the idea of serving the people in the best way, representatives of the Norwegian Lutheran Synod, the Hauges Synod and the Free church met and agreed to unite and build a union church. This is not a union church in the sense of a formal agreement between the three churches above mentioned, but rather a place of worship, built by the people of the village and the immediate vicinity, yet all the members of the Zion church are connected with one of the three denominations. The church is maintained by free gifts, supplemented by the efforts of a Ladies' Aid Society connected with the church.

The church building was dedicated on October 3, 1915, with impressive ceremonies. Seven ministers were present, representing the congregation of Ashby, Fergus Falls, Aastad, Elbow Lake, Dalton and the four leading Norwegian Lutheran denominations of this county. Reverend Normann, of Ashby, delivered the dedicatory sermon in the afternoon. He remarked upon the progress of the churches in coming together as one on such a momentous occasion, and drew attention to the fact that the strife which has hitherto existed between the churches was drawn to a close in the building of this church, which belonged to all the Lutheran denominations instead of only one. The progress of the day came to a close with the dedication of the cemetery by Reverend Skyberg of Aastad. According to the plan outlined beforehand, the church is to be served in turn by the pastors representing the three churches above named, namely: Rev. O. A. Normann, Ashby; E. Berlie, Dalton, and J. F. Melom, Dalton.

FINNISH APOSTOLIC LUTHERAN CONGREGATION OF OTTO TOWNSHIP.

The Finnish Apostolic Lutheran congregation of Otto township is located in section 26, and has been a prominent factor in the life of that community since its organization in 1879. During the thirty-seven years of its existence, the church has been served by three pastors, Rev. Herman Karjalainen, Rev. John Mursu, and Rev. Israel Hagel, the latter having charge of the church at the present time. The congregation numbers eighty-five families, and has one of the largest houses of worship in the county. It was erected several years ago at a cost of sixty-five hundred dollars, and has a capacity of seven hundred. The church was incorporated November 19, 1898.

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PENTECOSTAL CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE OF FERGUS FALLS.

The Pentecostal church of the Nazarene was organized in Fergus Falls with twenty charter members. The church does not have a house of worship, but rents a hall at No. 113 Mill street south, where services are regularly held. Three pastors have served the congregation, James H. Martin, William M. Irwin and Elmer Cordell, the latter now having charge of the congregation The present membership is about thirty.

REORGANIZED CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER DAY SAINTS.

By Hallie M. Gould.

The Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints is represented in Otter Tail county by a branch of one hundred and eighty members, fifty-four of whom reside in Clitherall village and vicinity. They have a frame church building in Clitherall, in section 6, Nidaros township, valued at six hundred dollars. They also own a frame church building in Rush Lake township, section 19, valued at six hundred dollars.

The first branch of the church in this county was organized in the summer of 1875, when Apostle T. W. Smith came to Clitherall and made the first converts here to this particular faith. The charter members were George Gould and wife, Buckley Anderson and wife, Alma Sherman, Lois Cutler, Clayton Gould and wife, Rhoda Sherman, Roseltha Gould, Emma Gould, J. D. Anderson, Charles Pierce, Freeman Anderson and Richard Anderson.

The organization was known as the Hope of Zion Branch, the first president (or pastor) being J. D. Anderson. Later other branches were organized in the county, but at present all have united with the Union branch, organized February 16, 1890.

The presidents of the Union branch since its organization have been William Barnhard, George Gould, Alonzo Whiting, Freeman Anderson, Lurrett Whiting and Lester Whiting. The last named is presiding at the present time, with B. S. Lambkin, president of the Minnesota district.

A Sunday school, Religio-Literary Society and Ladies' Aid have been established in Clitherall by the church. The church of which this is a branch should not be confused, as it frequently is, with the Latter Day Saint church in Utah, commonly called the Mormon church, as the Reorganized church rejects the doctrines of polygamy and kindred evils advanced by Brigham Young, the early leader of the church in Utah.

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE SOCIETY OF FERGUS FALLS.

The Christian Science Society of Fergus Falls was organized in 1897 with Mrs. William Cockroft as first reader. For some time after the organization the services were held at her residence, and the society grew and prospered for a time. However, in 1900 the services were discon-

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tinued. In 1914 the society was reorganized with Mrs. George Franklin as first reader. The Presbyterian church was obtained for the regular services shortly after the reorganization, although later it was necessary to move to Smith's hall. The society has made a rapid growth during the past few years and is now preparing to erect a building of its own. It has purchased a lot with a frontage of one hundred feet on the site of the old Presbyterian church at the corner of Summit avenue and Whitford street and expects to erect the building within the near future. The usual services include a Sunday morning service, Sunday school and a Wednesday evening testimonial meeting. Mrs. William Cockroft is now the first reader.

CATHOLIC CHURCHES.

The Church of Our Lady of Victory, of Fergus Falls, traces its beginning back to the fall of 1881, although it is thought that Catholic missionaries paid occasional visits to the county before that time. It was to the missionaries from the Dakotas and from the Chippewa missions of northern Minnesota that the pioneers of Fergus Falls and vicinity owed the few welcome opportunities to hear Mass and receive the sacrament. In those early days the humble home of some lately arrived settler served temporarily as the house of God.

The first Catholic church of Fergus Falls, a little frame structure situated one hundred feet west of the present church was erected in the fall of 1881, although the interior was not finished until later. Shortly afterwards a priest's residence was added. Handicapped in every conceivable manner, it was only by persevering effort and great sacrifice on the part of the priest and the people that so much could be accomplished. There were very few Catholic families in the village before the middle of the eighties, among them being M. Frankoviz and family, Anton Kaus and family, E. J. Weber and family, and John and Charles Nangle, Joseph Bauer, F. J. Pfefferle, J. E. Metcalf and James McCrossin.

Rev. Joseph Moder, the first pastor, was transferred to Barnesville in 1882, and the parish of Fergus Falls was temporarily attended by the Benedictine Fathers of St. John's Abbey. In 1883 Rt. Rev. Rupert Seidenbusch, D. D., then vicar apostolic of northern Minnesota, appointed Rev. Joseph Boever pastor of Fergus Falls and the surrounding missions. Father Boever, as well as his immediate successors, labored assiduously to pay the little debt, which in those days weighed heavily upon the small congregation. Rev. Francis Watry was pastor from 1885 to 1886; Father Schels, 1886 to 1889, and Rev. William Lange from 1889 to 1893. During the service of Father Schels the interior of the church was completed, and during his successor's period the congregation was finally freed from debt. The Revs. Joseph Stephan, G. Goebel, Charles Pfeiffer, Anthony Arzt, Emil Steinach,

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Hubert Gundermann and Francis Welp successively had charge of the parish during the years 1893-1906. Rev. William Scheiner (1906-08) was the first pastor to give his undivided care to the Catholics of Fergus Falls, the adjoining missions having been placed in charge of another priest in 1906. Rev. George Rauch has had charge of the church since 1908.

As the number of families slowly increased, the need of a new church was felt, and, after some hesitation it was decided to build, the pastor and his people working together in complete harmony to that end. The construction of the church, a substantial brick building, fifty-eight by one hundred and sixteen feet, in modified Gothic, was begun in June, 1913, by contractor William Schueller. The corner stone was laid September 7, 1913, by the Rt. Rev. James Trobec, D. D. On Easter Sunday of the following year the first services were held in the new church. The beautiful windows, pews, altars, stations and altar-railing, had just been completed the previous week. Bishop Trebec officiated at the dedicatory services on June 2, 1914.

The old place of worship had been known as the church of the Holy Family, but after its dedication September 10, 1890, by Rt. Rev. Otto Zardetti, D. D., it was named the church of St. Otto. When the present church was dedicated, it was placed under the care and protection of Our Lady of Victory, its present patron. A new parsonage was completed in November, 1914. The parish already owns a teacher's home, as well as the site for a school, with every prospect for the opening of a parochial school in the near future. The church maintains three Sunday school classes for the instruction of its young people. Other auxiliaries include the St. Ann's Society, St. Agnes Sodality of Young Ladies, and the Catholic Order of Foresters.

St. Stanislaus church was organized at Perham, August 23, 1883, by the Rt. Rev. Rupert Seidenbusch, O. L. B., Rev. Severinus Gross, O. L. B. and Rev. Dr. Peter Chovanier. This is the wealthiest Catholic church in Otter Tail county and also the largest in point of membership. The church cost ten thousand dollars, the parochial school five thousand dollars and the parish house forty-five hundred dollars. The church now has seven hundred and fifty-six members.

The pastors of the church since it is organized are as follow: Reverends Grunholz, Urbanke, Kiuch, Wippich, Matuszewski, Bujalski, Golkovski, Kivzniak, Dudek and John Kromolicki, the present pastor. The church maintains three societies: St. Stanislaus Men's Society, Ladies' Rosary Society and Young Ladies' St. Cecelia Society.

St. Elizabeth Catholic church of St. Elizabeth.—The parish of St. Elizabeth is located in the little country town of Elizabeth in the township of the same name. The parish is in the diocese of St. Cloud. This little

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village is on the bank of the Pelican river, nine miles northwest from Fergus Falls, the county seat. The original name of the church was Sacred Heart, but in the latter part of the nineties the name was changed to St. Elizabeth, since there was another Sacred Heart church in Otter Tail county.

The first Catholics began to arrive in the vicinity of Elizabeth in the latter part of the sixties. Most of these families were Germans, although a few of them were Slavonians. With these few families as the nucleus, a flourishing little mission sprang up in the little village of Elizabeth. About the year 1872 the services were held over the mercantile store of Peter Maurin. The building is still standing in the village.

The first priest to say mass in Elizabeth was Rev. I. Tomazin, an Indian missionary at that time, and now pastor of St. Anthony's church at Kraintown, Minnesota. From that time the few scattered families were occasionally visited by passing missionaries. Before 1875 a rude log church was constructed, to which was added a log parsonage. In 1875 the aged Rev. Frund became the first resident pastor and he remained in charge of the congregation until 1878. The parish then extended as far west as the boundaries of the state of Minnesota and in a southerly direction for more than fifty miles, including the parish at Fergus Falls. Something of the early history of the church is revealed by the following extract from the church records as set forth by Joseph Moder, pastor of the church in 1882.

"In Festo Ascensione D. N. 1882. Those baptisms which were administered before this time have been usually recorded at Wahpeton, Dakota (Millerville, Minnesota, Reverend Tomain). A priest for some time resided here, Reverend Frund. Reverend Bergmann attended this church before me, he being the resident pastor of Wahepton. November 1, 1881, the undersigned has taken charge of the congregation, having his residence at Fergus Falls. Since then regular services have been held every other Sunday. The congregation, small and poor as most of them were, has shown a good spirit and a willingness to support the church. May the Sacred Heart bless us and give us prosperity in the future.

"Elizabeth, May 18th, Feast of the Ascension of Our Lord, 1882.

"JOSEPH MODER, Pastor."

The present church was built about 1883 and in the latter part of the nineties the church was enlarged by the addition of a tower and sacristy. In 1913 the church was remodeled on the inside; it is now valued at seven thousand dollars. The pride of the little parish is that they are entirely free of debt. In the year 1906 a new rectory was build by the Rev. Francis Whelp, now pastor of St. Patrick's church, Melrose, Minnesota. The new parish house being built of solid brick with the latest improvements cost about seven thousand dollars. The parsonage as well as the church is

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free of debt, the last debt having been paid off in 1912. The number of parishioners at present numbers two hundred and five. There are about forty-five families attending the church. They are of a mixed nationality—Slavonians, Germans, Americans, Scandinavians and Irish, although the predominant factor is of German descent. Practically all are American-born except the few old veterans of the parish. The following are the remaining members of the church who arrived here in the latter part of the sixties or the fore part of the seventies: Peter Maurin and wife, Bernard Schroeder, George Wedell, George A. Mock and wife, German Sha and wife, Thomas Ratcliff and wife. All the rest have gone to their retreat.

The pastors of the church up to 1875 were missionaries who stopped off on their journey between missions. Since 1875 the following pastors have served: Reverend Frund, 1875-78; Reverend Bergmann, 1878-81; Reverend Joseph Moder, 1881-83; Reverend Joseph Boever, 1883-85; William Lenge, 1885-86; Reverend Vatry, 1886; Reverend Schelt, December, 1886-November, 1888; William Lenge, 1889-92; Rev. Joseph A. Stephen, 1892-95; Carl Pfeifer, 1895-96; Anthony Artz, 1896-99; Rev. E. Steinach, 1899-1900; Rev. H. Gundermann, 1900-03; Rev. Francis Whelp, 1903 to December, 1908; Reverend Tomazin, December, 1908, to August, 1911; Rev. John B. Wilkes, 1911 to the present time.

The membership has remained practically stationary for years. Those who move away or die are replaced by natural growth or conversion. Sister Theona Shroeder, O. S. B., and the late Sister Mock, O. S. B., are both from this parish. The church societies consist of the following: The St. Joseph Men's Society, consisting of twenty members; the Young Ladies, twenty-five members; the Young Men's Sodality, twenty-nine members; Confraternity of the Christian Mothers, thirty-nine members. Besides these societies, there is a league of the Sacred Heart to which nearly every member of the parish belongs.

The present pastor, John B. Wilkes, was born at New Munich, Minnesota, December 12, 1878. When he was two years of age he removed with his parents to Barney, Richland county, North Dakota. He attended church at the little mission of St. Anthony, Mooreton, North Dakota, he made his first holy communion at Wahpeton, North Dakota, May 15, 1892, and was confirmed October 7th of the same year by the late Rt. Rev. Bishop John Shanley, of Fargo, North Dakota. He entered St. John University, Collegeville, Minnesota, November 17, 1897, entered the seminary in that place in he fall of 1903, and was ordained on June 13, 1908, by the Rt. Rev. James Trobec, D. D., bishop of St. Cloud, Minnesota. On July 8, 1908, he took charge of St. Bernard's church, Ward Springs, Minnesota, together with the missions of St. James, Randall, Minnesota, St. John's, Swanville,

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Minnesota, and St. Mary's Swiss settlement. On August 15, 1911, he came to Elizabeth, Minnesota, where he has since been stationed. He also has the missions of St. Leonard's at Pelican Rapids and St. Mary's at Foxhome, Minnesota.

The Sacred Heart Catholic church of Urbank, located in the southwest corner of Effington township, was established in 1902, and during the fourteen years of its existence has made a rapid growth. The center of a flourishing farming community, the church has a prosperous membership at the present time of nearly five hundred and is constantly growing. The church was organized by Bishop John Busch, Monsignor Edward Nagle, Rev. John Sand, Joseph Suchy and Clemens Revering. Steps were at once taken to provide a church and parsonage and both were completed within the following year, the church at a cost of six thousand and the parsonage at a cost of four thousand five hundred dollars. Preliminary preparations for the erection of a parochial school building are now in progress and it is hoped to have this ready for occupancy within a year. The parish house was remodeled two years ago.

The pastors since the church was organized in 1902 have been as follow: Rev. Stephen Urbanke, 1902-05; Rev. Father Makuschewske, 1905-06; Rev. Alois Ruster, 1906-08; Rev. G. Schollenberger, 1908-11; Rev. Alois Ruster, 1911-13; and Rev. John Sand, 1913- to the present time. The church maintains four auxiliary societies, as follow: Men's Society, membership of fifty-six; Young Men's Society, membership of thirty-six; Young Ladies' Society, membership of twenty; and Ladies' Society, membership of sixty-five.

The Inventio Sanctissimae Crucis church of Butler was established in 1910 under interesting circumstances. A. D. S. Johnston, a wealthy Catholic of St. Paul, and a large landowner of Butler township, engaged some Catholic families, natives of Holland, to settle on his land in this county. He promised to build a church for them, a parish house, and give the church forty acres of land. The first settlers came from Europe in March, 1910, and others settled in the county later. At first services were held in a rented room pending the erection of the church. Early in the spring of 1910 steps were taken toward the building of the church and parish house, and both were built and blessed before the end of the year, the church being incorporated October 25, 1910. The buildings are frame and stand in section 16 of Butler township. Their total cost was about thirty-five hundred dollars.

The parish is in charge of the Order of Crosier Fathers, who came with the people from Europe. Not all of the thirty families composing the parish are natives of Holland, there being some from Belgium, Germany

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and a few of American birth. The first pastor was Rev. Henry Yzermans, Ordinis S. S. Crucis. The present pastor is Rev. John B. Keyzers, Ordinis S. S. Crucis. The Holy Name Society and the League of the Sacred Heart are two active organizations in the church. Religious instructions are regularly held in the church by the pastor.

OTHER CHURCHES OF OTTER TAIL COUNTY.

The churches whose histories have been given above in more or less detail responded to requests for information. The remaining part of this chapter is devoted to those churches which did not furnish any information. The facts given concerning this second group of church have been taken from the incorporation articles which are filed in the office of the register of deeds. As near as possible they have been grouped by denominations.

SWEDISH EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCHES.

The Swedish Evangelical Lutheran church of Compton held a meeting on January 4, 1887, for the purpose of electing trustees and adopting articles of incorporation. Jonas Forsberg, John Skog and Charles J. Loren were elected trustees. The congregation decided that the corporate name should be the "Swedish Evangelical Lutheran Compton Congregation." These articles were certified to by O. J. Sutter, chairman, and Peter Nilson, clerk of the meeting, and were filed for record February 14, 1887.

The Swedish Evangelical Lutheran Trinity congregation of Paddock was incorporated under this name on October 25, 1890, on which date thirteen charter members were present at a special meeting called to prepare articles for incorporation. The business meeting of the congregation on this date was presided over by Rev. J. G. Hultkraus, with G. Magunson as clerk. Frank Gustafson, Eber Hought and C. S. Lijioggren were elected trustees.

The Swedish Evangelical Lutheran church of Eagle Lake dates its incorporated career from March 25, 1892, at which time thirty members were present at a meeting to prepare articles of incorporation and at the same time elect trustees. John Holmgren, Edwin Lundby and A. P. Melander were elected trustees.

FINNISH EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCHES.

A Finnish Evangelical Lutheran church was incorporated on July 28, 1889, but it is impossible to tell from the incorporation articles where it was located. It is probable that it is located in Newton township. The members of the church council were John Gunnai, John Saari and Sakris Pajunpaa, deacons; and Gustaf Kauppi and Johan Pojunpaa, trustees.

The Finnish Evangelical Lutheran church, situated in the vicinity of Dopelius, township of Newton, was established June 4, 1911, John Huus-

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ponen, being pastor. Some of the members were Jacob Wormas. Victor Maki, Gus Borkkonen and Charles Wick.

The First Finnish Evangelical Lutheran church held a meeting at New York Mills July 6, 1892, for the purpose of organizing a Finnish church. At this meeting the following were appointed to draft a constitution: August Nylund, Harry J. Haarala, Henry Pajari, Olaf Pary, John Kuteri, Victor Witikka and August Ferdinand. These men also constituted the first board of trustees.

The Finnish Evangelical Lutheran Saint Peter church was incorporated November 23, 1896 at New York Mills, Minnesota. The incorporators were Matti Felin, Tobias Hinkman, Matti Salminen, John Winberg, Herman Blomberg, Herman Thompson, John Keeteri, K. H. Laakso, John Neuwomen and Peter Blomberg. They met for the purpose of providing a place of worship and the following trustees were elected: Matti Salminen, Chairman; Mattie Selin, secretary; Herman Thompson, treasurer; John Keeteri and John Winberg. Other members were Tobias Hinkman, Herman Blomberg, John Neuwomen and Peter Blomberg.

The Lehtijarven Finnish Evangelical Lutheran church is located in Leaf Lake township. The congregation held a meeting May 19, 1902, to effect articles of incorporation. At this meeting Sakris Pajumpaa, Petter Marjala, John Pajumpaa, Jacob Wormar and Matt Hill were elected trustees.

UNITED BRETHREN CHURCHES.

A church of the United Brethren in Christ was incorporated at Bluffton on April 7, 1899, at the quarterly conference which was held at this time. The following board of trustees was elected: G. W. Beach, J. M. Howes and O. W. Webster.

On March 5, 1898, an official meeting of members of the United Brethren faith was held at the church house in Hewett, Todd county, Minnesota. At this time and place the society took into advisement the propriety of building a United Brethren church in or near Wrightstown, in the township of Woodside, in Otter Tail county. P. Aldrich, Elias Merriam and Charles J. Walker were elected trustees and J. W. Fulkerson was the presiding elder. At this meeting an incorporation was formed with two hundred and fifty shares of stock at one hundred dollars a share. The incorporators were Elbridge M. Farnham, of Princeton; Chester G. Farnham and Harry H. Farnham, of Minneapolis. Elbridge M. Farnham was chosen president; Chester G. Farnham, vice-president, and Harry H. Farnham, secretary and treasurer.

SCANDINAVIAN CHURCHES.

A meeting for the incorporation of a Scandinavian Christian church was held in the township of Compton, December 16, 1897. The following

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members were present: R. I. Johnson, A. J. Norun, Daniel Anderson, John Nordin, Mrs. Maggie Nordin, Christ Thompson, Mrs. Ida Thompson, A. R. Danielson and Nels W. Lifquist. Daniel Anderson was appointed chairman and John Nordin, clerk. Daniel Anderson, Nels N. Lifquist and Andrew R. Danielson were elected trustees.

The congregation of the Scandinavian Christian Mission church, held a meeting June 24, 1905, in the township of Maplewood for the purpose of electing trustees and forming articles of incorporation. Rev. G. R. Newman was chosen president and Christian B. Toso, clerk. Nels O. Hagen, Peter Peterson and Christian A. Toso were elected trustees.

The members of the Scandinavian Free church of God, fifteen in number, met at the residence of O. Swedberg, February 24, 1903, for the purpose of incorporating their church. O. Swedberg was elected chairman and Alfred J. Anderson, clerk. The following were elected trustees: Olaf Swedberg, Alfred J. Anderson and E. C. Skalman.

The congregation of the Scandinavian Evangelical Lutheran Rolling Prairie church held a meeting March 4, 1878, and adopted a constitution and articles of incorporation. This meeting was held at the house of Jurgen Christiansen in Tordenskjold township. The following persons were elected trustees: Lars A. Rustad, Peter A. Rustad and Jorgen Christiansen.

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCHES.

The Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran church of Fergus Falls was organized December 30, 1872, with John Haave, Knut Harris and Ole Husby as trustees.

The Evangelical Lutheran Kaame church was organized January 23, 1873 with the following trustees: J. Thompson, J. Elmjsen, C. Olesen, Theuton Anderson, L. Anderson, T. Anderson, V. Rone, P. Volstad and G. Oleson. It was impossible to tell from the articles of incorporation where this church was located.

First Evangelical Lutheran church, Battle Lake.—Articles of incorporation were filed for record November 16, 1882, for the First Evangelical Lutheran church of Battle Lake. The articles were officially verified to on the 1st day of December, 1882, and signed by G. A. Larsen, John Engebretsen and Hans Gilbertson, who, by virtue of the articles adopted, were made the first board of trustees of the congregation.

The Evangelical Lutheran church of Leaf Mountain was organized and incorporated May 15, 1891. Their creed and doctrine was that set forth by the Evangelical Lutheran faith. The name was fixed as the "Zoar Evangelical Lutheran Church." The following were present at the organization: Theodore Holt, A. Neson Krosby, Petter E. Fjermedal, Iver A. Langenes,

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Andrew Holt, J. K. Hatleskog, Ole J. Vangen, Olam A. Ulsbye and Robert Halvoren.

Swan Lake Evangelical Lutheran church.—At a meeting of the Swan Lake Evangelical Lutheran church, of Dane Prairie, held at their place of worship March 12, 1886, articles of incorporation were adopted and a permanent organization of the congregation was effected in accordance with the laws of the state. O. A. Ruth was appointed president and Ole Larson clerk. The following were elected trustees: Andes Pederson, Berent Thompson and Ole A. Rudh. These articles were subscribed and sworn to March 13, 1886, by Neils Bergeson and C. S. Bromseth and filed for record May 11, 1886.

Maplewood Evangelical Lutheran church—The members of the Evangelical Lutheran church, which had been previously organized, assembled on the 19th of May, 1900, at their place of public worship in the township of Maplewood, for the purpose of drafting articles of incorporation and preparing a constitution. August Matinusen, Johan Nodsle, G. A. Blegen, Sivert Anderson, L. J. Have, Iver Anderson and Ole A. Blegen were appointed to draw up the constitution. The following were elected officers: E. J. Ovri, president; August Matinusen, secretary; L. J. Haave, treasurer; Syvert Anderson, G. A. Glegen and Ole Nodsle, trustees.

Salem Church, Evangelical Association.—The congregation of the Salem church of the Evangelical Association of North America in Deer Creek, met on December 10, 1891, to prepare articles of incorporation. The purpose of this society was the promotion of the interests of religion in their midst and the spread of the scripture throughout the world. The following were elected trustees for the first year: Christian Link, Julius Zabel and G. Glenn.

The Bethel Evangelical Lutheran church in St. Olaf township was organized June 8, 1893. B. B. Haugan was elected president of this meeting and H. P. Nelson, secretary. M. L. Salverold, Peder Nelson, John J. Bakos, N. Johnson, John P. Nelson and Peder P. Woldahl were witnesses to the articles of incorporation.

Zion Lutheran church—On November 30, 1912, the Zion Lutheran church of Dunn was incorporated, at the township of Dunn. The following members were present at the meeting: Charles Gulstad, Adolph Sandred, Peder J. Mjorn, Charles Peterson and Alfred Peterson. Adolph Sandres was elected president; Peder P. Mjorn, secretary; Charles Peterson, Charles Gulstad and Jacob Jacobsen, trustees.

The Leaf Mountain Evangelical Lutheran church was organized in the township of Leaf Mountain January 25, 1904, for religious, charitable and educational purposes. Articles of incorporation were prepared and

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Albert Lorson and H. O. Shusen were witnesses. The following were elected trustees: Andrew Holt, John Jacobsen and Nils Anderson.

The Evangelical Lutheran St. Peter congregation, of Richdale, was incorporated January 16, 1905, with John Warnecke, Albert Liernauer, Fritz Vogts as trustees.

The Evangelical Lutheran Sarpsburg church was organized November 25, 1875, with P. Lockstad, A. Kristensen and H. Thoreson as trustees. The pastor of the church at the time of organization was J. A. Bergh; the first deacons were C. N. Ursoth and J. E. Setermven.

The Rindahl Evangelical Lutheran church was organized March 27, 1894, in Sverdrup township. John Stornprve, Kurt Hankebo and Ole Bjornaas were elected trustees. At this meeting B. B. Haugan was elected president, and Ole F. Bjornaas, secretary.

The Evangelical Lutheran church of Sverdrup was incorporated on January 31, 1891, with Svend Kloskvik, Ole Owam and J. Gunderson as trustees. At this meeting Kund Pederson was elected chairman, and P. Bjornstad, clerk.

The Evangelical Lutheran congregation of Eagle Lake called a meeting on the 12th day of May, 1886, for the purpose of electing trustees for this congregation. The following persons were elected to serve as trustees: Hoagen Paulson, Olans Thorp and Christian Oleon. The articles of incorporation were adopted and were certified to by Halvor Thompson and Elleng J. Klohervold.

Ten-Mile Lake Evangelical Lutheran church—Articles of incorporation were adopted by the Ten-Mile Lake Evangelical Lutheran church, in the township of Tumuli, at a meeting held in their house of worship, May 24, 1886. Lars Nelson, Peder Nelson and Ole A. Olson were elected to serve as trustees. These articles of corporation were verified to by the following: Lars Nelson, Tollef Nilson, Lars Fostang, Peder Nilson, Ole A. Olson, John Nilson and Hans H. Lokstad.

The Evangelical Lutheran St. Jacob church, of the township of Effington, held a meeting January 12, 1887, for the purpose of adopting a constitution and preparing articles of incorporation. These articles of incorporation were certified to by W. Diedrich, Wilhelm Meyer, Johann Netzelmann and August Hertsing.

The Evangelical Lutheran Trinity congregation, of Deer Creek, was organized and incorporated at a meeting held at the home of William Rodekuhr on January 27, 1915. On this day Henry Bettcher, Otto Nelsen and John Heiserman were elected trustees. The charter members of the church were as follow: Henry Bettcher, Otto F. Nelson, John Heiser-

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man, John Menge, John A. Haase, William Rodekuhr, Emil Raunbaum, Robert Pfalzgraff and Bennie Hartmann.

The Evangelical Lutheran church, St. John's congregation, located in Dora township, was incorporated April 5, 1915, pursuant to a legal notice posted March 22, 1915, and signed by the following members: Charles Stender, Fritz Harthun, Herman Lewin, Rud F. Hoffman, F. Hoffman, E. A. Volkmann and Albert Qpaim. The three trustees chosen on April 5, 1915, were Rud F. Hoffman, E. A. Volkmann and Job Sabin. The articles of incorporation were signed by E. A. Volkmann, Ernest Kerlin, Fritz Harthun and Walter Engel.

The Evangelical Lutheran Tordenskjold church was organized December 30, 1872, with H. Ristianson, L. Oleson, J. Clemensen, Jensen Ole, E. Balsten, B. O. Lee, N. Jacobsen and O. N. Jhesny as trustees. The articles of incorporation were signed by J. A. Bergh (pastor), I. Christiansen, Frederick Charles Jensen and S. W. Jacobsen.

Our Evangelical Lutheran Tonseth church of Friberg was incorporated on May 12, 1890, in the township of Friberg. The purpose of this society was the divine worship as celebrated according to the rules of Evangelical Lutheran Norwegian church. Ole Hysjulien, Martin Sahl and Mikkel Hesthammer were elected trustees. C. O. Nelson was secretary of the initial meeting and Nels B. Olson, chairman.

Folden Evangelical Lutheran church—At a meeting of the Folden Evangelical Lutheran congregation, held at the regular place of worship in Folden township on May 15, 1886, for the purpose of effecting an organization and adopting articles of incorporation, the following persons were elected as trustees: Torger Tollefson, Severin Mulvold and Rasmus Trana.

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCHES.

Union Congregational church, Pelican Rapids.—At a meeting held by the members of the Union Congregational church of Perham on April 1, 1883, which was for the purpose of effecting a permanent organization and preparing articles of incorporation, the following persons were elected and authorized to serve as trustees of the congregation until their successors were elected and qualified: Frank Palmer, H. W. Williamsn and Wallace Jewell.

The First Congregational church of Pelican Rapids held a meeting on July 26, 1883, at their place of worship for the purpose of adopting articles of incorporation in accordance with the statutes of the state of Minnesota. These articles of incorporation were filed for record August 4, 1883, and certified by H. W. Bruce and Herbert W. Gleason. The following persons were elected trustees: J. P. Wallace, Theodore Frazee, L. L. Rundell, J. A. Goodrich and A. J. Kinney.

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The Congregational church of Christ of Maine adopted articles of incorporation at a meeting held April 2, 1877, at their house of worship for this purpose. Aaron Scribner, George W. Cruger and E. A. Rickford were elected trustees, and the articles of incorporation were certified to by A. Scribner, B. L. Bull and T. A. Mills.

The Congregational church of Christ in St. Olaf township was formally organized at a meeting held on June 9, 1876. At this time R. Beardsley, A. D. Dewey and W. H. Beardsley were elected trustees.

First Congregational church of West Dora.—On the 18th of November, 1888, the male members of full age of the First Congregational church of West Dora held a meeting in their house of worship for the purpose of incorporating. The following trustees were elected: William H. Slater, George W. Smith and Durand E. Armitage. The articles of incorporation were filed for record October 12, 1889.

IMMANUEL CHURCHES.

The name of *Immanuel church of the Evangelical Association of North America* was given to this congregation and the initial meeting was held at Otter Tail City on November 12, 1890, for the purpose of incorporation. G. H. Siebold was chosen president and A. F. Ehlert, secretary. The principles and doctrines of this church were the standard doctrines of the Evangelical Society as adopted in the Minnesota conference. The first officers were William Kempf, H. Fruhn and J. Baehl.

A number of the members of the *Evangelical Lutheran Immanuel congregation of the Unaltered Augsburg Confession of Oak Valley township* met on April 18, 1903, at the church for the purpose of incorporation. The following trustees were elected: Emil Rainbaum, Gustav H. Schroeder, Walter Gloeden and August Mueller, pastor.

On the 16th day of November, 1904, the congregation of the *Evangelical Lutheran Immanuel church of the township of Western* held a meeting at the school house No. 3, which at that time was their place of worship. This meeting was for the purpose of preparing articles of incorporation, and Edward Nehring was elected president and William Mann, secretary. Henry Heusch, August Heusch and William Mann were elected trustees.

The Synodical Immanuels Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran church of Otter Tail county was incorporated on January 14, 1890, at a meeting of the members of this congregation, who assembled in their place of worship in Norwegian Grove according to the rules and customs of their faith. This congregation had been organized some time previous to the incorporation. Thore P. Skotland, Erik Sueve and H. Back were appointed to draft a constitution and by-laws.

On February 29, 1904, a meeting was held by the members of the

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Immanuel Norwegian Lutheran church of Friberg at the house of Mikkel Hesthammer in the township of Friberg to prepare articles of incorporation. The following persons were elected trustees: Daniel Hesthammer, Math Thompson and Louis Anderson. Mikkel Hesthammer was appointed president and Math Thompson, secretary. The articles of incorporation were certified by George F. Cowing and George M. Ross.

The Evangelical Lutheran Immanuels congregation of Parkers Prairie was incorporated on February 21, 1913, at a meeting held in the Methodist church in Parkers Prairie. Henry C. Proehl was elected chairman and Ferdinand F. Osh, secretary, with the following persons as trustees and elders: August B. Kelpin, Frederick C. Proehl and John Duberowski.

On October 31, 1890, the first meeting of the *Evangelical Lutheran Immanuels congregation* was held in Gorman township for the purpose of incorporation. The name of the congregation was given as *Evangelical Lutheran Congregation of the Unaltered Confession of Augsburg.* Rev. H. Kritzschnar was the first pastor. The charter members were Lorenz Weiss, H. Kritzschnar, Carl Wessel, Henry Mattfeld, Fritz Ellenberg, Fred Mattfeld, August Zilgur, Jacob Ziegler and Albert Shultz.

Reverend Rosholdt, the pastor of the *North Immanuel Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran church,* having given the usual notice, presided at a meeting of the congregation held at their usual place of worship, in the township of Norwegian Grove, on April 10, 1877, for the purpose of adopting articles of the incorporation of the church. At this meeting Ole Segelstad, Ole Gullikson and Simon Esten were elected trustees.

Articles of incorporation were adopted by the members of the *South Immanuel Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran church, of Trondhjem,* at a meeting of the congregation held at their usual place of worship May 31, 1877. The following were elected as trustees: S. Strinden, Andreas Strinden and Johannes Melen.

The Immanuel church of the Evangelical Association of North America was incorporated at Western, Minnesota, May 15, 1890. John Will, William Fabian and Fred Neuman were elected trustees. William Fabian acted as president and O. A. Mittelstadt as secretary of the meeting.

NORWEGIAN LUTHERAN CHURCHES.

A church was organized on September 18, 1875, by the male persons of full age belonging to the religious society heretofore known as the Norwegian Lutheran church of Highland under the name of the title of the *Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran church of Leaf Mountain.* The first business meeting was held at the house of Iver Olson Morstad. Embreck Jacobson, Johannes Thorsen and Foer Olson Morstad were chosen as trustees.

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The Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran congregation of Ringsager was incorporated under the laws of Minnesota, September 27, 1875. The church was organized in Pelican township and included members from adjoining townships as well as Pelican. The business meeting held on the above date met at the house of Ole Christiansen and elected three trustees: Ole O. Onsum, K. J. Fleischer and Andreas Nielsen. The articles of incorporation were signed by T. Rosholdt and M. O. Afseth.

On January 5, 1880, the male members of full age belonging to the religious conference known as the *Norwegian Danish Evangelical Lutheran Trinity congregation* met at the house of Harry Johnson, in the village of Battle Lake, Otter Tail county, for the purpose of incorporating this congregation. At this meeting articles of incorporation were adopted and the following were elected trustees: John Johnson, Julius Paulson and Henry Johnson.

A meeting of the *Grove Lake Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran congregation* was called on December 17, 1888, for the purpose of incorporating this church. This meeting was held at the residence of Erik Taaton in the township of Scambler, Otter Tail county, at which time articles of incorporation were adopted. Tosten Myhre, Peder Randkler and J. O. Krogstad were elected trustees.

The congregation of the *Gausdal Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran church* assembled at their place of worship on March 2, 1887, in the township of Elmo for the purpose of adopting articles of incorporation and effecting a permanent organization. By action of the congregation Ole Hanson, Ole O. Ronning, Simon Simonsen, Ingval Iverson and Bernt Olson were appointed and fully empowered and authorized to perfect such incorporation. It was decided that the name of this corporation should be "Gausdal Norsk Evangelical Lutheran Menighed," the name or title heretofore publicly assumed and borne by the church since the date of its organization. Ed Embertson was elected president and Paul Olsen, secretary and treasurer. Paul Pederson, Ole Hanson and Simon Simonsen were elected to serve on the board of trustees.

The Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran church in Nidaros township was formally organized January 10, 1881, by Peder Albert, Nels Johnson, Martineus Syverson Muggeberg and others. The trustees were Peder Albert, Nels Johnson and Martineus Syverson Muggeberg.

A meeting was held in the church building of the *Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran church of Aurdal* on March 16, 1892, for the purpose of incorporating. This society had been previously organized and had acquired church property. M. O. Grunden, E. A. Braaten and B. Sundby were

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elected trustees. O. N. Fosmark was appointed chairman of this meeting and Ole T. Sjardal, secretary.

On May 31, 1892, the *Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran church of St. Olaf* was incorporated in the township of St. Olaf. O. A. Normann was the first president, N. P. Rasmussen, secretary, and Gunder Ruirsen, treasurer. Ole H. Dahlen, Soren Vattinsen and Iveren Weck were elected trustees.

The Norwegian Congregation Lutheran Trinity church of Clitherall was organized in March, 1872, with Edward Mason, Gustav A. Larson and K. W. Bondy as trustees.

The Sondre Friberg Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran church of Otter Tail county was incorporated on January 13, 1896. Rev. H. A. Gaardsmoe was appointed chairman and N. C. Rian, clerk. John Saeher, Jr., Iver Skister and Ole Bratlien were elected trustees.

On August 30, 1904, a meeting of the members of the *Trefoldigheis Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran church of Battle Lake* was held at their place of worship for the purpose of incorporation. George F. Sjornhom was elected president and Henry Olsen, secretary. I. J. Lindelin, G. H. Bang and J. J. Rudh were elected trustees.

The Kongsberg Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran congregation held a meeting at their house of worship on December 5, 1910. Rev. L. E. Kleppe was elected president. There were twelve members present. Peter Odland, Nils Gerhardson and Gustav Johnson were elected trustees.

The Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran congregation at Rock Rapids was organized in December, 1873, the articles of incorporation being dated January 2, 1874. The first trustees of the church were John Nelson Hoff, Helge Nielson Ovema and Torea Hansen.

The members of the *Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran congregation* met at Boxtwold, May 28, 1877, and adopted a constitution, by-laws and articles of incorporation. It was decided that the corporate name of the church should be the "Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Boxtwold Congregation at Erhards Grove, Otter Tail county." This meeting was held at the house of Jacob Sabbers and the following were elected trustees: Peter Haugen, Sven Sabbe and Andrew Nelson.

The members of the congregation of *Northern Hill Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran church* held a meeting Feruary 26, 1887, and adopted a constitution and articles of incorporation and took such further steps as was necessary to perfect a permanent organization. Frederick N. Ellingson was elected president; Narve Ellendsen, secretary, and Christian Haugen, treasurer. The following persons were elected to serve on the board of trustees: Edward Ellingsen, Ole Haugen and Lars Anderson.

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GERMAN EVANGELICAL CHURCHES.

The German Evangelical Protestant Zions congregation of Perham was organized and incorporated at Perham, September 14, 1893. The purpose of this society was to unite in divine worship in conformity with that of the German Evangelical synod of North America. The incorporators were M. J. Daly, Nic John, Albert Neuman, C. Lange, Ernst Kierbs and Fred Damlow.

The German Evangelical Lutheran Immanuel congregation held a meeting on July 17, 1882, in the township of Friberg, at which time a constitution and articles of incorporation were adopted. The articles of incorporation were certified to by Ferdinand Peters, Frederick Hoffman and August Ludwig. It was provided in this constitution that the right of suffrage should belong only to those male members who have arrived at the age of twenty-one years and who have subscribed to the church regulations; and only those who have attained to the age of twenty-five years and have been members of the congregation were eligible to hold office.

On October 15, 1892, the *German Evangelical Lutheran St. John's congregation* was incorporated in the township of Corliss. The constitution for this society covered twelve sections and dealt with all matters pertaining to this creed. The following were signers of the first constitution: Charles I. Zalm, August Zalm, Gottlieb Max, George Schelske, Friedrich Nesonke, Albert Fresonke, Ferdinand Tohber, Wilhelm Hinz, August Lubitz, Carl Foerstner, Friedriche Stvike, Gustav Liske, Michael Utz, Gustav Paester, August Mizchke and Carl Wandrei. August Mishke, August Zalm and William Hinz were elected trustees.

At a meeting of the *German Evangelical Lutheran Zions Church of Unaltered Augsberg Confession,* held on July 10, 1907, at Otter Tail, articles of incorporation were prepared. H. G. Luedus was elected president and Fred Dueker, secretary. The members present were H. D. Luhning, William Luhning, Fred Dunper, H. D. Wiehe, F. H. Niebe ad H. G. Luedus.

METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCHES.

On February 25, 1911, a quarterly conference was called and held, according to the usages of the Methodist Episcopal church, in the *First Methodist Episcopal church in Vergas.* This meeting was for the purpose of incorporating a church. James Nesbitt, Otis Antowsen, E. L. Brooks, Bernard Stouhness and F. G. Smith were elected trustees.

In accordance with the discipline and usage of the Methodist Episcopal church of the United States of America, the quarterly conference of *The Bertha Charge,* of the Minneapolis district, of the North German annual conference of the Methodist Episcopal church held a meeting on June 28,

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1902, at which the following persons were elected trustees: Charles J. Voge, Charles Reinhardt, Julius Zabel, Henry Voge and August Haeft.

The quarterly conference held a meeting at the *Methodist Episcopal church at Richville* on January 2, 1908. The following persons were elected trustees: E. S. Paige, Thomas Greenwood, C. J. Curney, Mrs. E. S. Paige and Mrs. S. N. Brooks.

The First Methodist church of Perham held a meeting on July 19, 1882, for the purpose of electing a board of trustees. Fred L. Post was chairman of this meeting and Charles H. Tuesley, secretary. Charles H. Tuesley, George F. Russell, Amanda E. Butla, Andrew McCrea and John Kennedy were elected trustees.

A meeting of the quarterly conference was called at Pelican Rapids on April 1, 1885, at which time the First Methodist Episcopal church was organized and articles of incorporation adopted. At this meeting, which was held in the school house, R. F. Tate, C. M. Tate, G. Q. Greeey, E. A. Miller, E. Keller, N. Confine and J. B. Blackey were elected trustees.

On July 8, 1891, a meeting of the congregation of the *First Methodist Episcopal church of Battle Lake* was held for the purpose of effecting a permanent organization and articles of incorporation were adopted. Jacob Epler, Comfort Barnes and F. M. Mesher were elected trustees. The articles of incorporation were certified to by J. B. Heingley, clerk, and S. W. Varner, chairman, and filed for record July 10, 1891.

The Methodist Episcopal church of Deer Creek held a meeting at Oak Valley on August 6, 1887, and adopted articles of incorporation. The following named members were elected trustees: G. P. Smich, L. M. Gordon, Fred Hershe, Abner Frantz and T. Carew.

At a meeting of the congregation of the *Woodside Free Methodist church*, held at their regular place of worship in Woodside township, March 2, 1898, the church was incorporated and John Streit, B. Sanders and H. A. Wolcott were elected trustees. C. G. Thomas was presiding officer at this meeting and John Streit served as chairman. Charles Mitchell and A. F. Todd certified to the articles of incorporation.

On June 21, 1883, pursuant to a notice posted at the *Norwegian Methodist Episcopal church of Fergus Falls* and signed by the pastor and members of the church, a meeting was held at their house of worship July 12, 1883, for the purpose of effecting a permanent organization by the adoption of a constitution and articles of incorporation. Rev. A. H. Nelson was elected chairman and Louis B. Johnson, secretary of this meeting. Ole Hoff, Louis H. Johnson, Louis J. Carleston, Osel Batelson and Peter Christiansen were elected trustees.

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SWEDISH BAPTIST CHURCHES.

The Swedish Baptist church of the township of Oscar held a meeting October 9, 1886, at their regular place of worship. Articles of incorporation were adopted and a permanent organization effected. The following named persons were elected to serve as trustees: Peter Parlson, Erik Smith and Lars Mattson. The corporate name by which the church was to be known was the Swedish Baptist Church of the Township of Oscar. These articles were filed for record December 20, 1886, and were certified to by Erik Smith as chairman of the meeting and Jonas Swenson, clerk.

The Lake Lida Scandiviska Baptist church of Maplewood seems to have been organized at the home of C. N. Heidenberg at a meeting held on June 3, 1899. The articles of incorporation state that they met at his home, which stood on the northwest quarter of the northwest quarter of section 16 of Maplewood township. The following members were present at this initial meeting: C. N. Heidenberg, O. L. Sagu, Johannes Nelson, A. O. Berg, A. Denison, O. Torsin, I. Svenson, Mrs. C. M. Heidenberg, Mrs. Carlson and A. S. Jorby. Ole Sorenson, A. Berg and N. Olson were elected trustees at this meeting.

The First Baptist church of Parkers Prairie held a meeting at the school house in Parkers Prairie, January 1, 1879, for the purpose of adopting a constitution and articles of incorporation and taking the preliminary steps for the erection of a house of worship. A board of trustees was provided for in the constitution and certain other officers of the congregation, but it seems that these officers were not elected at this meeting, as their names do not appear in the record which was filed October 24, 1879.

On the 2d day of June, 1883, the members of the congregation of the *First Baptist church of Parkers Prairie* met at their place of worship and adopted articles of incorporation and effected a permanent organization. These articles were filed for record October 3, 1883, signed by the following persons: Charles W. Woodruff, J. D. Mariner, S. B. Tumme, G. N. McComb, S. W. Kasson, L. W. Mott, W. H. Logan, M. D. Reeves, J. W. Mott, Elia Smith, Bessie Kasson, Allen Erckenbrack, Eva Erckenbrack, D. B. Turner, Samuel Mc. W. Logan, Jacob W. Suwnubs, Christine Saunders, A. L. Wariner, Miss Jennie Wariner, W. K. McFarlane, J. P. Eckenbrack and C. E. Ging.

The articles of incorporation of the *First Baptist church of Battle Lake* were filed for record January 12, 1884, the same having been acknowledged and certified to June 6, 1883, by the following persons: W. G. Carpenter, Washington Muzzy, E. A. Muzzy, Sarah A. Carpenter, Flora K. Kephart and W. H. Kephart.

The Immanuel Baptist church of Henning held a meeting at the school

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house in district No. 106 in the village of Henning on February 9, 1889, for the purpose of arranging for the incorporation of the church. At this particular meeting George W. Cruger, J. R. Hunt, R. E. Hunt, H. C. Reynolds and A. S. Hunt perfected an organization and made the necessary provisions for the incorporation of the church. The congregation had been organized December 31, 1888, at the home of George W. Cruger. Rev. Myron Cooley, of Battle Lake, was the moderator of the meeting when the church was formally organized. Two persons were baptized at the time of this first meeting, A. S. Hunt and R. E. Hunt. The charter members were as follow: George W. Cruger, Salina A. Cruger, Ellis E. Cruger, Lois V. Terry, Joseph A. Hunt, Laura E. Hunt, Jennie L. Whitney and Mrs. F. E. Inman.

The Berean Baptist church of Otter Tail county drew up its incorporation articles in such a way that it is impossible to tell where it is located. Further than to say it is in the "eastern part of Otter Tail county," the record makes no mention of its location. This church was incorporated October 5, 1899, at which time the following members of the church were recognized by the articles: Homer Cook, May Hazen, Margaret Thompson, Maria A. Cook, Mrs. C. W. Taylor, Hugh Thompson, Gerald Hazen, Ella Knolt, Anna Moran, Charles Hazen, John P. Moran, Eliza Knolt and Thomas Knolt.

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCHES.

The First Presbyterian church of Maine provided for its incorporation at a meeting of the congregation held on May 16, 1887. At this time H. A. Putnam, Edward Bray and E. A. Bickford were elected trustees.

The Dora Presbyterian church held a meeting July 22, 1902, in their house of worship for the purpose of effecting a permanent organization and preparing articles of incorporation. D. M. Backes and John Jorgenson were elected trustees.

The Dent Presbyterian church was incorporated September 6, 1904, with Ezra D. Garber, George E. Green and O. W. Thompson as trustees.

The Presbyterian church of Maplewood held a meeting March 22, 1888, and elected E. W. Leeper, B. G. Emery and J. P. Lyon as trustees. S. P. Bon and A. C. Eddy were chairman and clerk, respectively, of the meeting. A second meeting of this same congregation is recorded in the register of deeds office as having occurred January 16, 1891. At this meeting the trustees elected in 1888 were again chosen for the same office.

CATHOLIC CHURCHES.

St. James's Catholic church of Maine was incorporated on January 15, 1900, by James Trabec, Roman Catholic bishop of the diocese of St. Cloud. Associated with him was Edward J. Nagle, vicar-general of the diocese, and

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Francis Butscher, the Roman Catholic pastor of the parish of Maine. James Fogard and James Moore, two lay members of the parish, were also associated in this work.

St. Henry's Roman Catholic church of Perham was incorporated April 23, 1895. Joseph P. Bauer, vicar-general of the diocese of St. Cloud, and Gregory J. Goebel, the Roman Catholic pastor of the parish of St. Henry, of Perham, assisted in the incorporation. Charles C. Dirkes and John B. Dishmann, two lay members of this parish, also assisted.

On April 22, 1895, Martin Matty incorporated the *St. Joseph Roman Catholic church of Perham.* Joseph Bauer, vicar-general of the diocese, and William Wilkins, the Roman Catholic pastor of the parish of St. Joseph, assisted in the incorporation. Michael Schmitz and Frank G. Wasche, two lay members of this parish, assisted.

St. Leonard's of Port Mauricius church, of Pelican Rapids, was incorporated on August 3, 1900. James Trabec, Roman Catholic priest of the diocese of St. Cloud, and Edward J. Nagle took part in this service, assisted by Zepherinus L. Chandonet, two lay members, Andrew F. Renner and John M. Flaherty, were assistants.

The Church of St. John the Baptist, of Bluffton, was incorporated March 27, 1902, by James Trabec, Roman Catholic priest of the diocese of St. Cloud, assisted by Edward J. Nagle, J. G. Stiegler, the Roman Catholic pastor of the parish of Bluffton. Joseph Junck and Henry Woehle, two lay members of this parish, were present.

MISCELLANEOUS CHURCHES.

The congregation of the *Oak Valley church of the Evangelical Association* assembled on March 2, 1898, at Oak Valley, to adopt articles of incorporation. J. M. Baitinger was chosen chairman and S. M. Packard, secretary. This society is located within the bounds of the Minnesota conference and conforms to their rules. W. E. Young, George W. Yetter and C. Rhodes were elected trustees.

The Evangelischel Zions church, located in Elizabeth township, was formally organized January 4, 1876, with the following trustees: Frederick Schacht (president), A. Schacht (secretary) and F. Wissbrod (treasurer). The incorporation articles were signed by Julius Gongoll, Frederick Schacht, August Schacht, Abraham Zimmerman, Fred Wissbrod and Nick Bar.

Our Saviour's congregation of the township of Trondhjem was organized some time prior to March 15, 1900, at which time articles of incorporation were adopted. This society adheres to the doctrines of the Evangelical Lutheran denomination. Peder J. Boppen, John A. Melby and Olaus E. Fosbie were elected trustees.

On January 10, 1901, a meeting of the *Union Church Association of*

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Oak Valley was held in the township of Oak Valley, and articles of incorporation were adopted. The following trustees were elected: Charles C. Bohn, president; A. W. Gribenow, Mrs. A. W. Chapman, Mrs. Lorenzo Sinkler and Mrs. John Peisons.

The Bethlehem congregation held a meeting in Clitherall township on November 12, 1897, to prepare articles of incorporation. Robert Halvorsen was appointed chairman and Andrew Petterson, secretary. The following were elected trustees: Andrew J. Helland, Ole O'Nive and John Ashby. The articles of incorporation were certified to by Axel Nelson and Jorgen S. Oksness.

The Evangelical Lutheran St. Paul's congregation of Unaltered Augsburg Confession of Henning held a meeting on April 28, 1911, to prepare articles of incorporation. John H. Bentley was appointed chairman and Fred VonOhlen, secretary; Henry Meyer, H. J. Cordis and Fred VonOhlen were elected elders and trustees.

The Free Christian church of Underwood was incorporated on September 2, 1889, although the society had been organized some time before this. Hans P. Bjorge, Peter Jensen, Martin O. Nass, Christian O. Kolstad, Anna O. Kalstad, Josefa Madjaa and others were the incorporators and founders of the church. The following were elected as the first officers: Hans P. Bjorge, president; John Frondsor, vice-president; Otto Nilshy, secretary; John O. Kolstad, treasurer. Petter Jenson, Martin O. Nass, Christian O. Kolstad, Anna O. Kolstad and Josefa Madjaa were elected to serve as the first trustees.

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CHAPTER XXIII.

FRATERNAL AND BENEVOLENT SOCIETIES.

People are gregarious by nature; some more so than others. There have been organizations of various kinds since the earliest dawn of history. One of the marks of civilization is this effort on the part of people to form societies of one kind or another. They may be traced through the pages of history from the time of the ancient Egyptians down to the present time. It has been left to the people of America to take the lead in organizations of all kinds—fraternal, benevolent, beneficial, etc. In no country is there such a multiplicity of organizations; we organize for everything and there is scarcely a town in the United States that does not boast of an order of some kind. There is only one organization, however, which traces its beginning back of 1700 and this fraternity, the Masonic, goes back to the time of King Solomon. It was flourishing in the Middle Ages and remains today the oldest and at the same time the most widely established in the United States in 1730. Next in point of age comes the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, which came into existence shortly after the opening of the eighteenth century. The Knights of Pythias date from the time of the Civil War. Practically every other organization of a fraternal or beneficial nature has appeared since 1860.

Otter Tail county is well represented with fraternal orders of all kinds and most of them seem to be in a flourishing condition. An effort has been made to get a complete history of all of them, but a few have not responded to requests for information. Some of those who failed to furnish data have been included, the facts concerning them having been obtained from their incorporation articles.

ANCIENT FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS.

The first fraternal order in Otter Tail county was organized in Fergus Falls in 1872, when the Masons established Corner Stone Lodge No. 99. This lodge has now been in existence more than forty years and has included in its membership a large number of the leading citizens of the county seat. The lodge, which now has a membership of one hundred and forty, rents quarters in the third floor of the Durrell building. The present officers are as follow: J. R. Leach, worshipful master; A. W. Coleman, senior warden; M. L. Davenport, junior warden; E. A. Jewett, treasurer; R. E. Lincoln, secretary.

The charter for the organization of the first chapter of Royal Arch Masons in Otter Tail county was issued to a group of Masons in Fergus

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Falls on June 25, 1874. The names appearing on the charter were James Compton, Samuel A. Terwilliger and A. J. Beach. The chapter was incorporated on May 29, 1886, with the following officers: A. Brandenburg, high priest; T. S. Benson, king; F. H. Dennison, scribe; James F. Caine, secretary. The present membership of Chapter No. 27 is ninety.

Perham Lodge No. 157, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, was granted a charter by the worshipful grand master of the grand lodge of Minnesota on the 16th day of January, 1884, and was instituted on the 29th of February, 1884. The charter members were E. J. Frost, C. H. Tuesley, Morris Herschler, Dan Newcomb, C. D. C. Williams, Henry Plowman, Andrew McCrea, L. D. Hendry, C. F. Moody and George Foster. The first officers of the lodge were as follow: E. J. Frost, worshipful master; C. H. Tuesley, senior warden; Morris Herschler, junior warden; Dan Newcomb, treasurer; C. D. C. Williams, secretary; Henry Plowman, senior deacon; Andrew McCrea, junior deacon; L. D. Hendry, senior steward; C. F. Moody, junior steward; George Foster, tyler.

INDEPENDENT ORDER OF ODD FELLOWS.

Parkers Prairie Lodge No. 237, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, was instituted June 4, 1906, with the following charter members: John P. Post, W. R. Perkins, W. B. Hibbard, M. W. A. Murray, A. Erckenbrack, James Conway, Fred Hibbard, Samuel Porter, L. H. Sutton, A. E. Taylor, S. B. Stone and George D. Taylor. The first officers were as follow: A. Erckenbrack, noble grand; W. R. Perkins, vice-grand; John P. Post, secretary; M. W. A. Murray, treasurer. The lodge rents quarters over the store of John A. Hankinson. The present membership is eighty. The present officers are as follow: H. H. Liebold, noble grand; Charles Hammer, vice-grand; J. L. Boline, secretary; Ross Clarno, treasurer.

Deer Creek Lodge No. 73, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, is located in the village of Deer Creek. This subordinate lodge was instituted March 3, 1910, with the following charter members: W. B. Hibbard, T. H. Hastings, H. D. Green, M. M. Keogh, Hiram Robbins, George A. Cook, Horace O. Stiles and George T. Lyles. The first officers were W. B. Hibbard, noble grand; T. H. Hastings, vice-grand, and M. M. Keogh, secretary.

The present officers of the lodge are as follow: S. Z. Beaman, noble grand; R. W. Jacobs, vice-grand; T. H. Hastings, secretary. The lodge holds its meetings in a rented hall. The present membership is thirty-one.

Dent Lodge No. 150, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, was instituted on March 27, 1907. The charter members of this lodge were N. B. Davis, O. S. Rownsville, Charles Perdue, F. C. Myres, Jacob Ehrentraut, Edward Van Antwerp, A. M. Heck, Eri I. Miller, Frank E. Rieman, S. W. Randall, Guy Bealy, Anton Olson, Edd Forsight, A. W. Myres, Charles Bliss, Fred

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Nelson, Ernest Ring and James Elliot. The first officers of this subordinate chapter were as follow: H. B. Davis, noble grand; Edward Van Antwerp, vice-grand; and Eri I. Miller, secretary. This lodge was in existence only a few years, when it surrendered its charter to the grand lodge of the state.

Perham Lodge No. 138, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, was instituted April 19, 1888. The names of the charter members were J. S. Richardson, E. S. Dudley, Fred C. Russell, S. Butler, Fred Buhr, L. E. Davison, R. Manford, A. Markel, E. L. Taylor, Christ Schroeder, A. E. Luedke, J. F. McCulloch, Frederick Claydon and R. Charest. The first officers were as follow: Stephen Butler, noble grand; Fred Buhr, vice-grand; E. L. Taylor, recording secretary; R. Manford, financial secretary; A. E. Luedke, treasurer.

The lodge holds its meetings in a rented hall on Front street. Their quarters are well equipped for lodge purposes. The present officers are as follow: Joseph Machamer, noble grand; H. J. Davies, vice-grand; C. W. Lotterer, recording secretary; Carl Schroeder, financial secretary; Herman Krueger, treasurer. The present membeship of the lodge is sixty.

Richville Lodge No. 187, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, was instituted May 2, 1908. The names of the charter members were James L. Richards, T. K. Johnson, Albert Larson, Frank E. Harris and W. E. Berges. The first officers were as follow: James L. Richards, noble grand; F. E. Harris, vice-grand; J. O. Robb, secretary.

Fergus Falls Lodge No. 59, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, was instituted January 22, 1877. The charter members were as follow: Dawson Bell, William H. Colvert, James Compton, Martin T. Lessick, Abed Edson, Fred Wissbrod, John Young and Jacob A. Nelson. The first officers of this subordinate chapter were as follow: William Colvert, noble grand; Obed Edson, vice-grand, and Jacob A. Nelson, secretary. This lodge has gone out of existence and surrendered its charter.

BENEVOLENT AND PROTECTIVE ORDER OF ELKS.

In the spring of 1907, W. W. Koons, then district deputy grand exalted ruler for Minnesota, north, began urging the local Elks of Fergus Falls, most of whom belonged to St. Cloud Lodge No. 516, to establish a local lodge. He did such good work along this line that a charter list was formed and a petition sent to the grand lodge asking for the formation of a lodge of Elks in Fergus Falls.

On October 9, 1907, Fergus Falls Lodge No. 1093 was duly instituted. The Little Falls lodge, under the leadership of J. H. Guerin, who had then succeeded W. W. Koons as district deputy, had charge of the installation. The charter list of the lodge contained the names of forty-eight citizens of Fergus Falls, as follow: George W. Frankberg, H. J. Laffitte, R. J. Angus,

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Dr. T. N. Littleson, John L. Townley, Dr. George E. Bell, Otis Hoyt, A. G. Anderson, N. P. Westberg, John Schacht, F. E. Murry, Ole C. Grinager, J. E. McKenna, Carl Larson, D. L. Brooks, Ole O. Hagen, J. O. Hagen, J. T. Johnson, Ole H. Lee, N. F. Field, J. H. Beise, A. E. Young, E. L. Leinan, J. D. Smith, Otte Mannerud, George E. Ackerman, Henry A. Winther, M. J. Fossen, A. F. Sherman, Emil Ahlin, S. C. Rugland, C. W. Kaddatz, F. H. Straub, Harry E. Frazee, Max Sachs, Julius E. Olson, Charles Schuneman, P. A. Anderson, M. S. Wright, N. J. Andrews, A. S. Wright, Murry Hunt, A. L. Felde, Joseph Glaser, Olaf Schei, E. A. Morgan, H. M. Wheelock, Salo Desky, W. A. Shea, Charles Bend and Martin Benson. The first officers of the lodge were: Exalter ruler, Richard J. Angus; esteemed leading knight, Dr. H. J. Laffitte; esteemed loyal knight, N. F. Field; esteemed lecturing knight, J. L. Townley; secretary, George W. Frankberg; treasurer, Olaf Schei; trustees, Dr. Sherping, J. T. Johnson, D. M. Brown.

The lodge held its meetings for the first three years in the Woodman hall. The membership kept on increasing and a feeling developed that the lodge ought to build and own a home of its own. In the summer of 1910, a few of the enthusiastic brothers formed an Elks Home Building Association for the purpose of erecting a home. The stock found ready sale among the members, and in a very few weeks the lodge felt justified in instructing its building and site committees, consisting of Messrs. Angus, Frankberg, Hunt, Desky, Sherping, Anderson and Lee, to purchase lots and let the contract for the erection of a home for the lodge. The result of the labor of these committees was that on March 17, 1911, with a lodge membership of only one hundred and fifteen, the present home was duly dedicated to charity, justice, brotherly love and fidelity. There may be larger homes and more extensive lodge plants than those of No. 1093, but there are none that inspire a more home-like feeling among the "boys" and there are none that have been more fully enjoyed and appreciated. The building is located on Lincoln avenue west and the building and site represent an outlay of thirty-two thousand five hundred dollars.

In 1911 R. J. Angus was succeeded in the chair by C. M. Hunt, and in the following year, G. W. Frankberg assumed the exalted ruler's station. Mr. Hunt took up the duties of secretary of the lodge, in which position he has been so successful that he is likely to develop into permanent secretary. Both he and George Frankberg deserve special mention as having performed yeoman's service in advancing at all times the interests of the lodge and of the order. Since that time, the exalted ruler's station has been filled by George W. Harris, Henry G. Dahl and D. M. Brown, and they too have filled the position with credit to themselves and honor to the lodge.

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Fergus Falls Lodge No. 1093 now ranks as the fifth largest in the state, being outnumbered only by the Twin City lodges, Duluth and Mankato, all of which are old established lodges. In 1912 Fergus Falls lodge entertained the State Association and many compliments were accorded from the membership throughout the state on the cordial welcome extended to the visiting brothers and ladies on that occasion. Fergus Falls lodge has a splendid territory from which to draw its membership, and there is every prospect that it will maintain its position as one of the best lodges in the state.

ROYAL ARCANUM.

Fergus Falls Council No. 1529, Royal Arcanum, was instituted, September 1, 1893, by the following charter members: G. O. Welch, R. F. Kumler, H. Meads, J. H. Stauffer, C. L. Hilton, E. C. Heard, T. N. McLean, F. J. Evans, W. T. Duncan, E. N. Littlejohn, C. R. Jackson, J. H. Grass, J. A. Brown, L. Trensdell, F. H. Gray, William McLaughlin, C. H. Allen, A. E. Weatherton, F. L. Waters, S. C. Strand, M. R. Curry and F. G. Dumble.

The first officers were: J. A. Brown, regent; F. G. Dumble, vice-regent; G. O. Welch, orator; C. L. Hilton, past regent; F. Truesdell, secretary; A. E. Weatherston, collector; J. H. Grass, treasurer; W. T. Duncan, chaplain; R. F. Kumler, guide; E. C. Heard, warden; E. N. Littlejohn, sentry; T. N. McLean, C. R. Jackson and H. Meade, trustees. The present officers are: F. L. Waters, regent; George Campbell, vice-regent; F. E. Hodgson, orator; A. B. Erickson, secretary; O. J. Anderson, collector; E. A. Jewett, treasurer; F. H. Gray, chaplain; G. W. Harris, guide; J. H. Grass, warden; M. Benson, sentry.

UNITED COMMERCIAL TRAVELERS.

Fergus Falls Council No. 539, United Commercial Travelers, was organized, May 10, 1913, with the following charter members: A. L. Whitmore, J. P. Anderson, Ole Bondy, L. A. Loomis, Bertram Harris, H. G. Lincoln, P. G. Paulson, C. W. Adair, J. F. Martin, A. H. Denniston, C. E. T. Larson, F. J. Lawrence, O. A. Fetvedt, E. S. Ferguson, C. W. Kaddatz, H. E. Moen, D. L. Brown, Bronson Strain, C. R. Gates, B. A. Clark, P. D. Fish, J. C. Renfsjord, C. M. Hunt, J. L. Chanpline, F. S. Bogen, J. A. Sandin, George W. Campbell and George C. Mantor.

The first officers were: Bronson Strain, past councilor; D. L. Brown, senior councilor; G. W. Campbell, junior councilor; H. G. Lincoln, secretary-treasurer; C. W. Adair, conductor; O. A. Fetvedt, page; J. W. Martin, sentinel; Cyrus Beal, C. M. Hunt, G. C. Mantor and A. L. Whitmore, executive committee.

The present officers are: G. W. Campbell, past councilor; C. W. Adair,

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senior councilor; A. H. Denniston, junior councilor; George C. Mantor, secretary-treasurer; O. M. Leonard, conductor; L. C. Mathers, page; A. L. Whitmore, H. G. Lincoln, H. E. Moen and Dell Cummings, executive committee.

This is a fraternal order which provides insurance for commercial travelers and city wholesale salesmen. The council meets the first Saturday evening of each month. In addition to the stated business meetings the order has an organized dancing club which gives a series of popular dances each winter. The present membership of the council is forty-seven.

KNIGHTS OF THE MACCABEES.

The Knights of the Maccabees, of Fergus Falls, was organized on April 2, 1895, with fifteen charter members. The first officers were as follow: J. A. McRorkey, commander; Charles Danstrom, lieutenant-commander; C. M. Hart, record keeper; John Graham, sergeant; W. W. Drought, physician; J. T. Kidder, master-at-arms; P. L. Finx, sentinel. The present officers are as follow: George P. Wright, commander; A. J. Peferfhey, lieutenant-commander; Otto D. Benson, record keeper; Philip Backwan, chaplain; Henry Hames, sergeant; C. J. Herman, picket; R. H. Grossman, past commander. They hold their meetings in a rented hall on Lincoln avenue east.

LADIES OF THE MACCABEES.

Happy Review No. 51, Ladies of the Maccabees, of Fergus Falls, was organized on February 16, 1903. The first officers were as follow: Emma Clifford, past commander; Malie A. D. King, commander; Mae Lamphere, lieutenant commander; Minerva R. Nelson, record keeper; Edith H. Partridge, finance keeper; Lucinda Castle, chaplain; Helen Knapp, sergeant; Dr. J. A. Freeborn, physician; Nellie Liedal, master-at-arms; Elise Hains, sentinel; Annie Cheney, picket. The present officers are as follow: Hattie Wright, commander; Luella Balfour, record keeper; Jennie Whitson, finance keeper; Susie Hunt, chaplain; Annie Marshall, sergeant; Dr. A. C. Baker, physician; Amy Kidder, master-at-arms; Martha Fredrickson, sentinel; Annie Langdon, picket; Emma Marshall, captain of the guard. The present membership is sixty.

BROTHERHOOD OF AMERICAN YEOMEN.

Fergus Falls Homestead, No. 1770, Brotherhood of American Yeomen, was organized in June, 1908, with the following charter members: A. H. Wick, J. T. Kidder, Oll Brandon, Ella Bowen, Maggie Stahl, E. J. Oxlie, Emma Oxlie, John Guwing, William Stahl, Ed Ward, Ida Ward, F. F. Arndt, J. H. Armstrong, William Brandon and Severin Gordon.

The first officers were: Jason T. Kidder, foreman; Ole Brandon,

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master of ceremonies; Ella Bowen, correspondent; Maggie Stahl, Lady Rebecca; Emma Oxlie, Lady Rowena.

The present officers are: Leonard Erickson, foreman; Otto Naegeli, master of ceremony; Fanny Waters, correspondent; Rosalie Dumke, chaplain; Claude Johnson, master of accounts; Minerva Nelson, Lady Rowena; Helen Knapp, Lady Rebecca.

The present membership is two hundred and ten. Meetings are held in the Maccabee Hall on Lincoln avenue. This lodge has an organized degree team and last year purchased four hundred dollars worth of regalia. The team is called to put on the work for out-of-town points. Their work is based on the book, "Ivanhoe."

Prairie Homestead No. 1148, Brotherhood of American Yeomen, was instituted on July 26, 1915, at Parkers Prairie, with the following charter members: Rosella S. Cook, Ida Boline, John L. Boline, William H. Peterson, Lillian Johnson, Mary Darst, Jennie Perkins, John Salisbury, Clarence Salisbury, Beatrice Salisbury, Marian Campbell, Susan Hendrickson, Lawrence Broshman, Isaac Hendrickson and Carl Linden.

The first officers were as follow: L. H. Brockman, foreman; Charles Cook, master of ceremonies; J. L. Boline, correspondent; Jennie Perkins, master of accounts; Sue Jenkins, chaplain; Susan Hendrickson, overseer. Membership of the order is thirty. The present officers are as follow: Jennie Perkins, foreman; Fred J. Cason, master of ceremonies; J. L. Boline, correspondent; Sue Jenkins, chaplain; Susan Hendrickson, overseer.

The Brotherhood of American Yeomen at Dent was organized with the following charter members: David Barley, H. O. Boyer, E. C. Boruf, J. S. Elliot, G. Franks, Viola G. Garber, F. J. Hegge, F. Krehelherz, C. Lofdahl, W. C. Miner, C. H. Perdue, William Perdue, C. H. Rosemeyer and eight others The first officers included E. C. Boruf, foreman, and J. S. Elliot, correspondent. The present officers include E. C. Boruf, E. O. Garber, K. Wonsewicz, Henry Hembsock, Ruth Garber and Mrs. Perdue. The present membership numbers thirty-nine. Their meetings are held in the Arcade hall.

Oak Hill Homestead No. 1413, Brotherhood of American Yeomen, was instituted July 10, 1906, at Maine, with the following charter members: G. W. Brietenbauch, Martin McNulty, M. E. Cameron, J. J. Haran, Mary Haran, Daniel Fogard, Bessie Fogard, H. F. Brietenbauch, Hannah Brietenbauch, B. E. Bray, W. M. Burns, Patrick Moore, James Moore, B. Moore, T. J. Moore, D. L. Barry, Mortimer Barry and Daniel G. Barry. This lodge was instituted with fifteen benefit members and three social members; since then the membership has increased to thirty-eight. The

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lodge was installed by District Deputy W. L. Ramond, of Detroit, Minnesota.

MODERN WOODMEN OF AMERICA.

Fergus Falls Camp No. 2302, Modern Woodmen of America, was organized May 23, 1894, with the following charter members: W. W. Adams, S. C. Aarness, J. Bauer, B. F. Brown, W. L. Chappell, L. E. Davenport, S. Desky, W. W. Drought, W. F. Daugherty, J. England, J. A. Head, R. Jensen, J. Leitz, F. McClosky, N. R. Norton, H. Olson, F. B. Swift and E. M. Wright. The first officers were: W. F. Daugherty, venerable consul; W. W. Adams, worthy advisor; J. England, banker; E. M. Wright, clerk.

The present officers are: George C. Olmstead, venerable consul; T. H. Gunerius, worthy advisor; C. E. Swenson, escort; E. A. Brown, clerk; A. G. Anderson, banker; W. F. Hogan, watchman; Fred Rongstad, sentry; E. Holstrom, M. Benson and P. W. Carlson, trustees; W. W. Drought and O. M. Haugen, physicians.

The camp has a membership of three hundred and fifty. Since its organization the camp has paid fifty-two thousand dollars to the beneficiaries of deceased members.

Bluffton Camp No. 11617, Modern Woodmen of America, was instituted on April 29, 1904, with the following charter members: George Barth, Joseph H. Denniston, Paul Fisher, Math Hammes, Joseph Hanson, Ever Johnson, John C. Jones, Michael Noehl, Nick Olk, J. J. Heille, S. M. Howes and Jesse James. The elective officers of the camp for the current year are as follow: Michael Carew, consul; William Grey, advisor; Henry Woehle, clerk; Math Hammes, banker; Ever Johnson, escort; Ferdinand Tabery, sentry; John Jones, watchman.

Altona Camp No. 3352, Modern Woodmen of America, is located in the village of Vergas, and was instituted on September 26, 1904, by authority of the head camp. The following were the charter members: John D. Reiman, Nicholas A. Kraus, Veder G. Buck, Oscar Walde, Charles H. Brooks, Albert Ament, Frank G. Smith, August Eichmiller, Charles Schuman, Ira McCollum and E. L. Brooks. The names of the elective officers for the current year follow: C. A. Peterson, consul; William H. Baker, advisor; D. E. Brooks, banker; Fred Kraus, clerk; Peter Meyer, watchman; Thomas Mayfield, sentry; Mord McCasland, escort; E. L. Brooks, C. A. Peterson and John D. Hieman, managers.

Vining Camp No. 10309, Modern Woodmen of America, was instituted on April 9, 1904, with the following charter members: Dr. C. Carson, J. S. Comstock, H. R. Haagenson, O. T. Kjorlang, A. T. Lund, E.

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Lund, John Funderrud, Peter Albertson, Samuel Price, Elling Ellingson, Sigrard Aune, Emil Bensinger, Fred Hart, Louis Logberg, George V. Olson, I. P. Rakstad, Nels Houghstad, George Munson, S. H. Uhren, August Wastvedt and Edward Cox.

The first officers were: Dr. C. Carson, consul; J. S. Comstock, advisor; H. R. Haagensen, banker; O. T. Kjorlang, clerk; A. T. Lund, escort; Ed Lund, watchman; John Funderud, sentry; Peter Albertson, Samuel Price and Elling Ellinson, managers.

The present officers are: Christ E. Berg, consul; Thomas B. Duhn, advisor; Charles A. Lund, clerk; Oscar A. Lund, banker; A. T. Lund, Jr., escort; J. H. Schmidt, watchman; P. O. Hohn, sentry; J. H. Timroth, H. R. Haagenson and H. Totz, managers. The present membership of the camp is twenty-three.

Underwood Camp No. 3768, Modern Woodmen of America, was instituted April 20, 1896, with the following charter members: N. O. Bondelid, I. N. Hansen, C. Peterson, Otto Hovda, A. J. Anderson, Mathias Larson, J. J. Sunds, John Gronner, I. J. Wold, Thomas Sjordal, E. S. Evaenson, Nils Wilson, C. J. Moen, N. P. Peterson, H. P. Bjorge, H. Hawkins, G. H. Woldy, Gust Sjordal and Soren Jenson.

The first officers were: Engebret Pederson, consul; H. P. Bjorge, advisor; C. J. Moen, banker; E. S. Evaenson, clerk; H. Hawkins, escort; John Gronner, watchman; Nils Wilson, sentry; N. O. Bondelid, H. Hawkins, C. Pederson, managers; Doctor Jones, of Battle Lake, physician.

The present officers are: Consul, Thoe. Sjordal; advisor, E. S. Evaenson; banker, C. J. Moen; clerk, C. K. Pederson; escort, Conrad Skalman; watchman, Alfred Gronner; sentry, Dan Wick; trustees, John Gronner, John E. Boen, N. M. Nelson; camp physicians, Doctors Lee and Randall. The order is composed of ninety-six beneficiary members and six social members. They hold their meetings in their own building, a two-story frame, costing about six thousand dollars, fully paid.

The articles of incorporation of Maine Camp No. 4116, Modern Woodmen of America, were filed for record, August 7, 1896, and on the 21st of that month the camp was organized by the head camp of the Modern Woodmen of America, of Fulton, Illinois. The names of the charter members of the camp were as follow: L. R. Adley, W. E. Barnhard, Daniel L. Barry, F. S. Bickford, Charles S. Blevens, Charles E. Burgess, George C. Chaffee, S. J. Claypool, J. N. Davis, William Douglas, W. S. Fisk, J. A. Gaylord, H. B. Johnson, S. F. Johnson, J. A. Jonson, Edward Nadeau, Charles W. Peterson, Asa Phelps, H. A. Putnam, A. E. Scribner, Carl Shellman, J. S. Scribner, W. E. Thomas, Henry Veazie, C. A. Webster, A. M. Westover,

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W. H. Westover, W. L. Wilson, E. W. Leeper, Frank Zado, C. A. Gabriel, Mike Barry, T. K. Johnson, David Barry and E. A. Bickford.

The first officers of the camp were: W. E. Thomas, venerable consul; W. S. Fisk, worthy advisor; C. E. Bingham, excellent banker; H. A. Putnam, clerk; Daniel Barry, escort; Charles Peterson, W. H. Westover and A. O. Chapin, managers; E. A. Bickford, watchman; Andrew Wallace, sentry. The present officers are W. E. Thomas, venerable consul; W. D. Claypool, worthy advisor; C. D. Hubbard, banker; A. O. Chapin, clerk; E. H. Bickford, escort; R. L. Keefe, watchman; O. Kanne, sentry.

The camp now has a membership of fifty-one. They hold their meetings in their own building, a two-story frame, twenty-eight by sixty feet. It cost two thousand dollars and is located on a very desirable site in the village of Maine.

Dalton Camp No. 6068, Modern Woodmen of America, was organized on March 5, 1901, with the following charter members: L. A. Boe, H. K. Brandvold, William Dammier, H. C. Halvorson, Ole J. Hatling, M. J. Larson, R. Norheim, F. J. Raatz, J. Tande, N. B. Thompson, J. Thompson, Olaf O. Vinje and C. H. Weiby. The first officers were as follow: F. J. Raatz, consul; Olaf O. Vinje, advisor; L. A. Boe, banker; Robert Norhein, clerk; Bennie Rustad, escort; Joseph Swanson, watchman; Doctors Vigir and Cowing, physicians; C. H. Weiby, H. K. Branvold and Ole Tande, managers. The lodge has twenty-six beneficial members. The meetings are held in a hall over the hardware store of G. H. Beyers. During the fifteen years the lodge has been in existence it has lost only two members by death. The present officers are as follow: E. L. Risbrudt, venerable consul; M. C. Wick, worthy adviser; Ole J. Hatling, banker; J. H. Gregory, clerk; J. O. Hatling, escort; M. E. Bergeson, watchman; Dr. L. A. Davis, physician; Hans Nesvold, John T. Thompson and Dr. L. A. Davis, managers.

ROYAL NEIGHBORS OF AMERICA.

Royal Oak Camp No. 2103, Royal Neighbors of America, was instituted on April 6, 1900, at Fergus Falls with twenty-two charter members. The present membership is one hundred; their meetings are held in the Smith hall on the fourth Tuesday of each month. The present officers are: Emma Marshall, oracle; Mary Whitson, recorder; Amelia Kaulum, receiver.

Constance Camp No. 1508, Royal Neighbors of America, was instituted April 8, 1899. The charter members were Dina Sande, Kaja Woldy, Bertina Sande, Gertie Onstad, Ella K. C. Holbeck, Hannah M. Holbeck Olson, Jennie Bjorge, Inga Sjordal, Matie Pederson, Anna Hawkins, Christine Hoxda, Inga Jorgens, Alvena Jensen, Anna M. Jensen, Emelia Wilson, Inger Grimstad, Mary Thompson, Mathea Ledding, Betsey Pederson and May Bjorge.

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The names of the elective officers for the first year were as follow: Lola Secoy, oracle; Alvena Hagen, vice-oracle; Anna Hawkins, chancellor; Olga Gronner, recorder; Marie Pederson, receiver; Florence Kugler, marshal; Oline Olson, inner sentinel; Christina Moen, outer sentinel; Jette Olson and Lena Pederson, managers.

KNIGHTS OF PYTHIAS.

Pelican Lodge No. 153, Knights of Pythias, was instituted at Pelican Rapids, on March 17, 1899, with the following charter members: Charles R. Frazee, James T. McCulloch, Ole N. Anderson, Richard O. Lunke, Fred J. Fleisher, Alfred G. Kinney, Carl O. Anderson, Bennet B. Hovey, Albert E. Haugen, Joakin S. Hammer, Harry H. Farnham, H. E. Frazee, Jesse A. Miller, Ole M. Axness, O. M. Elton, E. P. Adams, P. C. Frazee, G. M. Mills, N. P. Moen, A. Anderson, W. C. Crandall and C. F. Bennett. The names of the first officers were as follow: Orrin J. Morrison, chancellor commander and ex-officio presiding officer; Frank R. Jacobs, vice-chancellor; Milton B. Conyne, prelate; Charles R. Frazee, keeper of records and seal; Paul C. Frazee, master of finance; Harry E. Frazee, master of exchequer; Ole M. Axness, master-at-arms. The first trustees were Ezra P. Adams, Carl O. Anderson and David F. Rae.

The lodge owns its own building which was erected a few years ago at the cost of five thousand dollars. The trustees of the lodge are Peter Boysen, O. J. Morrison and F. R. Jacobs. The present officers are as follow: O. P. Sether, chancellor commander; Hugo Johnson, vice-chancellor; T. Satersmoen, prelate; J. F. Knudson, master of exchequer; M. T. Weikle, master of finance and keeper of records and seal; Howard Williams, master-at-arms; O. N. Anderson, master of work; Guy Nelson, inner guard; George Altnow, outer guard. The lodge now has an active membership of eighty-five.

CATHOLIC ORDER OF FORESTERS.

St. Anthony Court No. 648, Catholic Order of Foresters of Fergus Falls, was organized March 8, 1897, with the following charter members: Rev. Anthony Artz, Joseph Baur, F. J. Pfefferle, Charles Nangle, John F. Nangle, J. E. Metcalf, Leo Schwalen, James McCrossin, Peter J. Barbeau, D. J. McDonnell, H. K. Grinager, William E. Cawley, John P. Harrington, John Doyl, Bernard Dess, J. R. Kiewel, Timothy Keaveny, B. W. Barbeau, Michael Seigel, August Mandelke, John P. Barbeau, John H. Lamouren, Joseph Steinberger, Sabastian Dietrich, Joseph Barbeau, Nicholas Schuster, Jacob Taemble, John C. Matzimski, Andrew Renner, Miechel McInany, James J. Delmore and James Doyle.

The first officers were: Chief ranger, John F. Nangle; vice-chief

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ranger, James McCrossin; recording secretary, Peter J. Barbeau; financial secretary, Joseph Bauer; treasurer, H. K. Grinager; chaplain, Rev. Anthony Artz; trustees, Leo Schwalen, William E. Cawley and J. E. Metcalf.

The present officers are: Chief ranger, Joseph Bauer; vice-chief ranger, George Kreutzer; past chief ranger, Joseph Gander; recording secretary, Leo Schwalen; financial secretary, Alexander J. Frankiviz; treasurer, John Frankiviz; speaker, John Kreutzer; spiritual director, Rev. George Rauch; trustees, H. K. Grinager, Albert Mandelke and J. R. Kiewel.

At the time the court was organized it held its meetings in the building where the Bijou now is located, then known as the Norden hall. The court soon after leased the building from T. N. McLean, owner, at ten dollars per month, and sub-let it to other lodges. After about five years the furniture was sold to Leslie Wade, who converted the place into a pool room. The court then met in the Knights of Pythias hall, which was then in the Haymarket building, now occupied by the Krenten Brothers cigar factory. After a few years the Knights of Pythias leased the Mortenson hall and the court moved there with them and remained until the Knights of Pythias disbanded. The court then moved to its present location, the Modern Woodmen hall, No. 203½ Lincoln avenue, for which it pays a rental of thirty-six dollars per annum.

DEGREE OF HONOR.

The Fergus Falls Degree of Honor, No. 192, was organized January 23, 1902, with a charter membership of forty-six. The first officers of the lodge included Mrs. Margaret Chapman, Amanda Butler, Cornelia Titus, Emma Clifford, Sophia Holstrom, Luella Balfour, Laura Titus and Edward Brown. The officers for 1916 include Maude Grossman, Albertina Nelson, Ana Hames, Luella Balfour, Tillie Olsen, Ida Olsen and Matilda Young. The lodge, which now numbers ninety-five members, meets in the Maccabee hall the first and third Thursdays of each month.

INDEPENDENT ORDER OF FORESTERS.

The Independent Order of Foresters of Fergus Falls was instituted May 27, 1898, with the following charter members: T. N. McLean, A. B. Erickson, Lars Egland, W. P. Bayley, Louis Keene, L. A. Lavorsen, J. L. Erickson, J. A. Clifford, W. E. Stringham, Peter Peterson, C. A. Daley, M. H. Engles, Fred Steigler, E. J. Erickson, N. J. Mortensen and J. R. Greenley.

The first officers were: W. P. Bayley, Louis Keene, C. A. Daley, A. B. Erickson, L. A. Leverson and N. J. Mortinsen. The present officers include W. P. Bayley, C. A. Daley, A. B. Erickson, L. A. Levorsen and N. J. Mortinsen. The present membership is twenty.

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FRATERNAL ORDER OF EAGLES.

Fergus Falls Aerie No. 888, Fraternal Order of Eagles, was instituted on November 4, 1904. The charter members of the Aerie were, K. Gurvin, Soren Nordberg, Henry B. Hanson, J. P. Greenagle, William Braatz, I. A. Gunderson, O. G. Brandt, Nels Nelson, C. J. Bender, R. F. Sherman, F. L. Robbins, Julius Locker, Olaf Th. Sherping, Herman Shelberg, P. G. Hedin, H. Linberg, R. H. Rudd, Martin Carlson, T. J. Melquist, John A. Rolandson, J. E. Elridge, Lars Stangvick, J. C. Wilson, P. L. Zinn, C. J. Schott, Albert Nelson, J. W. Peterson, Jorgen J. Kjer, Matt Mattchinsky, John Egland, H. Nockelby, D. L. Brooks, G. R. Hetterington, F. A. Breyitte, B. C. Nohe, W. H. Parsons, Thomas Agern, O. Grimstad, B. H. Monson, F. A. Allen, J. Straus, C. T. Cofer, J. R. Kiewel, J. J. Carroll, Frank Grouws, A. P. Frankberg, O. A. Solberg, H. W. Kock, M. H. Call, J. P. Flatten, J. L. Owens, M. Knudson, O. A. Jelmo, George N. Ackerman, F. W. Jolitz, Olaf Straus, Thomas N. McLean, J. H. Wige, H. G. Dahl, G. F. Fitzmeyer, J. P. Thompson, Christ Dahl, T. J. Wilson, A. Niebels, Ed. Thurneau, J. H. Bryon and John Bauer. The first officers were as follow: J. W. Peterson, junior past worthy president; John A. Rolandson, worthy president; H. G. Dahl, worthy vice-president; Henry Winther, worthy chaplain; George W. Frankberg, worthy secretary; Thomas Agern, worthy treasurer; Jason T. Kidder, worthy conductor; Julius H. Bender, inside guard; William Devaney, outside guard; T. N. Kittleson, physician; C. J. Bender, Soren Field and B. H. Monson, trustees.

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L. R. ADLEY.

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CHAPTER XXIV.

EDUCATION.

By L. R. Adley.

The efficiency of a school or of a school system depends upon its patrons' love of learning and the amount of money at the disposal of the institution or the system. The intense love of learning in an individual may give him an efficient education in even a poor school or without the advantage of any school. Abraham Lincoln is an example of efficient education without schooling. But there are few Abraham Lincolns and the rule holds true that the love of learning plus the means of furnishing the training is the index of a school's efficiency.

Measured by the last standard alone, the early schools of Otter Tail County might have been thought by the superficial observer to have been inefficient, and indeed, from our present-day standpoint, they actually were inefficient. The early settlers of the county were poor. Many a young man came here to take a claim and make a home for his aged father and mother or the wife that was to be. The few dollars in his pocket and the axe and blankets strapped upon his back were all he possessed, leaving out of account a good physique and abundant grit. Even the richest had but a few hundred dollars, a team, a wagon, a plow and a little stock. Surely such a people could not found schools.

"It will be difficult," said an early county superintendent, "for many of our later settlers to fully realize the conditions under which the early educators undertook to build up the school system in this county without a dollar in the school fund in any district in the county before 1871." (From an address delivered before the Old Settlers' Association of Otter Tail County in 1915 by Hon. E. E. Corliss, the second county superintendent of schools of Otter Tail County.) But they did. The bonds which caused the settlers to act together were the common frontier hardships and a common love of learning.

This unanimity regarding the establishment of schools is remarkable, for this was a county of many nationalities and diverse religions. The early settlers' veneration for education was a matter of past training. All had come from countries where schooling was the right of every man. Everyone demanded that right for the succeeding generation and made sacrifices to secure it.

It is just possible that the time of great sacrifice being past we, as a people, appreciate an education less than the early settlers. Let us give them

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the honor their due. School petitions were received by the county commissioners as soon as that body was organized. The first drawn up bears the date of March 8, 1869. It is of sufficient importance to be preserved and is therefore printed here in full, without change in spelling, punctuation or capitalization.

To the County Commissioners of the County of Ottertail, Minn.

The Undersigned a Majority of the Legal Voters of the territory to Be Affected thereby Do Hereby petition your Honorable Body to organize a New School District to be Comprised of the following Described territory, Namely Sections No. 1—2—3—4—& 9—10—11—12 Situated in township 131 Range 41, Name Oxford [now the township of St. Olaf], Ottertail Co including numbers ———

Dated this 8th Day of March 1869.

Names	Names
Andrew Swenson	
Richard Gordon	
Andrew R. Roberts	
Francis Demars	
Joseph E. Lacy	thomas olson
Ole H. Hernes	
halver m. berge	

For some reason unknown to me the county commissioners acted first upon a petition from Clitherall, although it was drawn up eleven days later. It may be the means of communication were so poor that the Oxford petition did not reach the commissioners until after the Clitherall petition was received, or it may be that local pride made the commissioners take up the petition of March the 19th first. Thus St. Olaf narrowly missed the honor of having the first school district in the county. The petition for district one (now known as Old Clitherall) reads as follow:

To the County Commissioners of the County of Otter Tail State of Minnesota.

The undersigned a majority of the legal voters of the territory to be affected thereby do hereby petition your honorable body to organize a new school district to be comprised of the following described territory, to wit:

Being Township 132 North in Range 40 West.

Dated at Clitherall this 19th day of March, 1869.

Names	Names
Marcus Shaw	F. L. Whiting
Chancey Whiting	Hyram Murdock
S. J. Whiting	Jesse Burdick
C. G. Fletcher	T. Mason
Reuben Oak	Charles Sperry

School districts were formed rapidly during this early period. Conditions were such as to push organization to the extreme. Indeed, we will find later that the county superintendent was paid in proportion to the districts he could organize. Under such conditions it is small wonder that

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some districts were so organized as to actually block school development later.

A petition bearing the date of December 23, 1871, asked that a school district be formed out of "Sections 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 37, of township 136, range 39, and sections 13, 14, 15, 16, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36 of township 136, range 40 and all of township 135, range 40."

It was not expected that children from all of this enormous territory would attend school, but at that time railroad land was not subject to taxation and in order to support a school all the settlers for miles around must be included. The school house itself might be placed in one corner of this territory and it would be sheer good luck if this district could be subdivided later so as to accommodate future settlers. In some respects Iowa was fortunate in requiring a school house every two miles. Our haphazard manner of locating school buildings is often selfish and unjust. But the people of pioneer days met the conditions of the time with but little consideration of the possible future, just as we are doing now.

Minnesota was among the states that were trying the innovation of a county official who should foster its educational interests, so when Otter Tail began to organize school districts it appointed a county superintendent. The first appointment is recorded in the commissioners' minutes as follow:

Clitherall, Otter Tail Co.
State of Minn. May 20, 1869.

By order of Board of Coms Wm. Corlis was appointed County Superintendent of common schools of Otter Tail County Minn.

done this 20t day of May, 1869.

"Resolved that we the Board of County commissioners do appoint Wm Corliss as county examiner for Otter Tail county State of Minnesota."

Resolution adopted by said Board of County Commissioners.

That Mr. Corliss performed his duties in a manner satisfactory to the county commissioners is evidenced by two resolutions I find among the commissioners' proceedings for the years 1869 and 1870. It is interesting to note the official's salary and the method of payment.

Nov. 13, 1869.

Resolved that Wm. M. Corliss be allowed one hundred dollars for service rendered as county superintendent up to date. (The resolution also allowed him four dollars as judge of election.)

Sylvester Whiting Chancey Whiting
Clerk E. J. Lacy

January 7. A. D. 1870

1st—A note of instruction read pertaining to selecting a suitable person for a County Superintendent of public schools, the Board then Selected Wm. M. Corliss who

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accepted the station and was duly qualified to the office of Co. Superintendent of Otter Tail County for two years.

2nd—Resolved that the county superintendent Shall receive ten dollars pr annum for each and every school District organized in the County of Otter Tail during his term of Office and this shall be his salary.

done this 7 day of January, 1870.

Space will not permit me to give the complete history of any district of the county, much less the history of the county's two hundred and eighty-four districts. But I give at this time two sketches, so the reader may appreciate the early conditions before other phases of our educational history are taken up, and realize how strong schools develop from unpromising conditions. The first sketch is of a school in the township of Maine.

Our school (district 22) was first held in the unfinished chamber of R. F. Adley's house. It was, I believe, a building fourteen by twenty-two feet, with a roof so low that only the primary class could stand upright near the eaves.

There were two rather serious drawbacks to this room. This chamber had to be used each night as the family's sleeping apartment, and the beds and bedding (and sometimes more embarrassing chamber equipment) occupied too much of the school room space during the day. The second drawback was an unrailed stairway down which some of the over excited children tumbled during recess.

To this school room was brought Miss "Willie" Phinney of Pomme de Terre to organize the first school in the township of Maine. The term "organize" is a misnomer. There could be no organization under the conditions Miss Phinney found. There were eleven children ranging from four to sixteen years of age; no books to speak of and no two books alike; no blackboard, no crayon and no desks. As I look back on it there seemed to have been nothing but rich red blood and abnormal animal energy.

The next year the old settlers (those who had been there a year), assisted by the new settlers, in some way secured enough rough lumber to build the rudest kind of a school building. This was a building boarded up on the outside and as high as the eaves on the inside, the spaces between the studdings being filled with saw dust. The building was abominably cold in winter and in summer reeked with odors of the horse stable which one of the patrons attached to the rear of the building.

Our teachers were poor and presented us with nothing of interest. Pranks and mischief was ever in evidence. Nature did her best to supply the school with interesting subjects of study, had the teachers but improved the opportunities she presented. The building was placed in the heart of one of the thickest poplar groves I ever saw. Only thirty rods away was a lake and oft in the occasional fits of studious silence the shriek of the loom stabbed the silence, while the partridge's booming roar as he drummed in the wood, and the prairie cock's boom-do seemed ever to beat upon our ears in the spring time.

The saucy red squirrel scampered across the school room floor, seized a coveted bread crust and rushed to its perch upon the sawdust. Daintily holding its prize in its paws, it would devour it, eyes sparkling and chuckling, as if it thought it had perpetrated a fine joke. Ah yes! Nature school was fine but the man-made affair was but little short of a failure.

Then the school house burned and school was held in the summer kitchen of one of the old settlers. But now there came a woman who could teach and under her inspiration better things came about. The next year another school house was built and the first phase of the pioneer school closed.

The development of a school from very humble beginnings may be traced in the

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history of district 103 (the Vining school), a brief sketch by Olga Stene, a student of the Vining school:

"On February 7, 1879, a special meeting was held at the house of John Gysler, Sr., to elect a director, clerk and treasurer to serve until the annual school meeting. The following officers were elected: Ole J. Hoff, director; John Gysler, clerk; Ole Christopherson, treasurer.

It was also decided to choose a place to build a school house. Ole Christopherson offered a piece of land for the purpose in the southwest corner of the southwest forty of northwest quarter of section twelve, or where the Effington road connects with the main road about nine hundred feet from where the new school house now stands. This offer was accepted and it was further decided that the school house should be built of logs, each citizen of the district to furnish four logs and haul them to the place of building."

Nothing further seems to have been done for a year, when another special meeting was held. Now it was decided to begin building the first part of March, 1880, and to buy four hundred and fifty feet of second class rough lumber, four planks, sixteen feet long, two by six, and one plank twenty feet, two by six. As there was no money in the treasury at this time, it was decided that each citizen should give forty cents for the purpose of buying doors, windows, locks, nails and hinges. In March, 1880, the farmers hauled the logs to the school ground and helped build the school house. One of them made the seats, which were backed benches made of common boards.

The first term began in the spring of 1880. From twenty-five to thirty children were enrolled. The teacher, Thomas Hilden, received twenty dollars per month. But many of the patrons favored another location, so in 1882 it was voted to move the building. A Mr. Albert moved this primitive school building and charged the district twenty dollars for his services. As there was no money in the treasury (a common state of affairs in the early days) it was also decided that each citizen should pay one dollar and five cents into the treasury to pay different expenses.

When the village of Vining was organized, A. T. Lund offered the school district two lots within the village if the school house should be moved to town. In 1885 a new building was erected upon these lots, followed in 1897 by a one-room addition. Only a few years later both rooms were so crowded that satisfactory work could not be done and the health of the children was endangered.

It seemed best to the patrons of the district to take advantage of a recently passed consolidation law and organize district 103 as a consolidated district. This was done in 1914. The district now has a model school building, perfectly ventilated, perfectly lighted and well equipped. A city ten times the size of this little village might well be proud of a school as well equipped for its needs.

Now that I have illustrated my second point, let us take up the development of the educational work of the county as a whole. Speaking of conditions in 1871 Hon. E. E. Corliss has the following to say in his address to the Old Settlers Association in 1915:

"Although the county had been partially organized two years and a start toward organizing the first districts, the few log houses had been built wholly by subscription and a few short terms of schools kept, also by subscription from the scanty means of the early pioneers. The children of school age were scattered over this vast county, connected at most by trails over the prairies, around the slough and groves, with blazed trails over the prairies, around the slough and groves, with blazed tracks through the woods, with here and there a little of the underbrush cut out for a trail. With no school officers of any experience and very few teachers with any experience or fitness, we were all, as it were, working in the dark under the most discouraging conditions,

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The above are only a few of the little inconveniences we had to meet trying to lay the foundation on which you of later years have built the best schools of the state."

Superintendent William Corliss's first annual report shows that there were at that time two hundred and ten children between the ages of five and twenty-one, that nine school districts had been organized, one term of school held and the monthly wages for that two-month's term was sixteen dollars. Mrs. Zernah Sherman has the honor of teaching this first term and the satisfaction of spending this princely salary. In his report Mr. Corliss said that the county was being rapidly settled up by intelligent people, alive to school interests. Such people devise ways and means for securing an education for their children.

The report of Mr. Corliss for 1870 showed that the county had doubled the number of organized districts and almost doubled its school population. There was then one public school building (of the value of $50) there and had been one term of winter school which eighty-four pupils attended. The total expense for the county schools for the year was two hundred and fifty-eight dollars, amount of state school fund received, seventy-nine dollars and eighty cents, a sum less than the state aid for a single class B school of today. Certainly E. E. Corliss spoke the truth when he said in his address to the old settlers in 1915:

I dare say that no one now connected with the present magnificent schools of this county can fully realize what the work of those formative years was, with no precedents, no books or blanks, no school houses, absolutely no school fund, and with settlers without means or experience. Yet he (William Corliss) seemed to realize that those poor settlers were hungry for education for themselves and their children, so he hopefully commenced to build a foundation upon which later patriotic settlers have nobly and wisely constructed a great system of education.

The report of E. E. Corliss to the state superintendent for 1871 shows twenty-seven districts organized, fourteen school houses erected (five frame, nine log), one thousand forty-eight children of school age, two hundred and seventy-eight had attended winter school, three hundred and fifty-one had attended summer school, eleven teachers employed (seven male and four female), average wages for the winter term of twenty-eight dollars and fifty-seven cents for the male teachers and fifteen dollars and fifty cents for the female teachers, and average wages for the summer term of twenty-nine dollars and seventy-nine cents for the men and twenty-one dollars and eighty-eight cents for the women. On November 15, 1871, William M. Corliss died and his brother, E. E. Corliss, was appointed county superintendent of schools three days later. He says of himself, "I presume the county auditor informed you of my appointment, which position I can only fill in law, not in fact, until the commissioners are able to elect one."

The statement of "Inadequate pay, poor school houses and a lack of school apparatus" is reiterated again and again in the annual superintendent's

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reports of these early days; indeed it appears through all the county's educational history. It is not a complaint, it is a prayer. The prayer from the hearts of earnest men and women who had visions of the wonderful heritage that could be offered the boys and girls of the county when prosperity came if the people could be led to see the true value of education.

Upon the completion of E. E. Corliss's term of office the county commissioners appointed his successor. The record, as taken from the minutes of the meeting, reads as follow:

Otter Tail City.

Jan. 24, 1872.

A common school Superintendent for Otter Tail County was chosen by ballot and resulted in the election of N. H. Chittenden of Fergus Falls and salary established at $300 a year.

Resolved we appoint N. H. Chittenden for the office of Co. Superintendent for the next ensuing two years from the first Tuesday of April, 1872, and we affix his salary at 300 doll pr. year to be paid him in quarterly payments for which purpose we authorize the Co. Auditor to issue Co. orders at the end of each quarter to the amount above noted.

H. JUELSON, Chairman.

Three hundred dollars is no doubt a small salary, but the volume of business is indicated by Mr. Chittenden's portage and express bill from April, 1872, to July 1, 1873. It was five dollars and was allowed.

Mr. Chittenden was succeeded by Alonzo Preston, who resigned before the end of the term. We cannot say that the county superintendents who had thus far filled the office could lay any special claim to leadership in educational affairs, earnest men though they were. Two were lawyers, two were farmers, and only two had had experience in teaching—none had any professional training. The superintendency was a side line. One superintendent was appointed "to assess all the inhabitants north of township 133 north and he shall be allowed three dollars per day for himself and horse." (Commissioners' proceedings, August 7, 1869). Another managed his farm, while two others practiced their professions.

The schools had not been organized into a system. There was no one yet capable of securing the co-operation of children, teachers, parents and school officers. Perhaps there never will be, but the next appointee, George F. Cowing, succeeded in a remarkable degree. Mr. Cowing was without training for his work. It is possible that at another period he would not have made a success of it, but he was a man of the period, emphatic, shrewd, capable, with kindly sympathy and keen sense of humor. He was gifted with the ability to organize and inspire and he hated sham.

The county could now pay a reasonable salary. Mr. Cowing had no other business and was retained in office from April, 1876, to January, 1889, thus giving him time to carry out his plan of educational work. To him more than any one other person must be given the credit of laying a

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firm, if rugged, foundation for the county's educational structure. He advocated longer terms of school, compulsory attendance, apportionment upon the basis of actual attendance, trained teachers, uniform text books and obligatory closure of schools to allow teachers to attend institutes. All these measures have become laws; the last, thirty years after his appeal and six years after his death.

Mr. Cowing was the first supervisor to think of the school work as a unit and not at so many separate unrelated schools. He was the last untrained supervisor to be elected by the people. Subsequent superintendents have been graduates of normal schools or universities, and have been, with the exception of some appointed by the commissioners, men and women trained for the work. In a sense George F. Cowing may be considered the last of the pioneer superintendents.

It is not to be supposed that during this formative period the state was not aiding. It is true that the state department of education gave the rural school people little direct aid or encouragement until about 1907, but the Legislature passed some laws that stimulated school work.

In 1877 women were allowed to vote on all school matters and a little later they were permitted to vote for the county superintendent. The women are more directly interested in education than the men. Woman has ever been the teacher of childhood and has a keener appreciation of the work than man. Hence the general result of the 1877 law has been for better schools.

In 1887 there crept into the laws a requirement that all schools must teach the "study of physiology and hygiene, with special reference to the effect of stimulants and narcotics upon the human system." I could never understand how the liquor interests permitted it to go on the statute book or why no attempt was ever made to remove it after it was on. It probably was thought harmless. The teachers were and have been faithful to the spirit of the law and the anti-saloon sentiment of the county today is more largely due to their teachings than the temperance workers themselves appreciate.

Some time in the eighties the state agreed to pay one-half of the cost of a school library. Gradually the schools took advantage of this offer so, at this writing, all are equipped with libraries. It has taken us quite a while to appreciate that the best books are those we can use daily. Most of the books selected now, therefore, are for use and not show. The library aid from the state was one thousand fifteen dollars and forty-three cents for the school year ending July, 1915.

About a decade later the Legislature conferred the right to grant certificates upon the state department of education. Heretofore, that right had rested with the county superintendent, but there was a general feeling that

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the results of the teachers' examinations were not always impartial. It was sometimes claimed that politics got mixed with education. Whether such charges were true or not, it is certain that state uniformity was desirable and that it stimulated better educational qualifications for teaching.

But the best piece of legislation was the act which gave special state aid to those schools that would meet certain state standards of equipment and length of term. Besides the actual money aid, it stimulated local pride. Patrons like to feel that their school has reached the standard set forth for equipment and educational results. At present all the high schools, consolidated schools, graded schools and two hundred and four rural schools in Otter Tail county receive special state aid. For the year ending July, 1915, the county received aid to the amount of thirty-two thousand seven hundred and fifty dollars. Of this amount twenty-one thousand six hundred and forty dollars was for rural schools or thereabout. This was about eighty per cent. of the amount promised by the state. The Legislature of 1915 tried to manufacture a reputation for economy, hence the state aid fell below the aid for 1913-1914.

The years between 1899 and 1907 were spent in strengthening classrom work and securing better qualified teachers and longer terms. Those were the days of large and enthusiastic summer schools. So wisely and vigorously was this teacher training pushed that Otter Tail county teachers were known among the most progressive in the state. During most of these years no permits were given to teachers. They had to pass the examinations or step aside for those better qualified.

Today the school work of the county is what it is because of its high-minded, energetic, ambitious and progressive band of teachers who are ever loyal to the work. They are building upon the past, but hope to set the pace for the future. Our schools are also built upon the past in another sense. The Chinese do not excel us in matters of conservatism in educational affairs. We never fill our saddle bags and climb upon "Old Dobbin" for a journey. The stage coach is a thing of the past. We take the train or automobile. Letters are too slow. We telephone, we telegraph or send a wireless message. We no longer hold plow handles. We ride the gang plow or steer the tractor. In material things we have a new world and no sane person would go back to the world of forty years ago, much less to the day without matches, without stoves, without railroads, self-binders or tractor plows.

Yet our schools are to a large degree untouched by this remarkable advance in all lines of human endeavor. There are two reasons for this. One is because we cannot get over the traditions of the past. We are working practically along the same line as did the schools of the early republic.

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whose founders believed he was best educated who had the largest stock of facts at command. Today the majority of school patrons think of school as the place to acquire facts from books. It is hoped the children will be able to apply some of those facts, if not now, at least in their future. Many cannot see the immediate relation between the school and the every-day home life.

The other reason is the one so often given by unthinking people: "What was good enough for me is good enough for my children." This argument is usually offered by those who have accepted and made use of all modern machinery in their farming. That fact is answer enough in itself, but this attitude, so Chinese, is preventing our rural schools from taking their proper places as factors in the present-day advancement.

Since about 1907 the work has consciously been directed toward modernizing the schools and making them a distinct help in the vocational life of the patrons. We hope we are keeping the essential things that the past has given us and at the same time directing the school so it will deal with the essential things of the present. There is no excuse for the rural schools lagging behind in the progress of a people.

How shall the schools be vitalized? None of us know yet. We only know that the schools have not given us all we need in the life of today; we believe they are capable of greater usefulness. So we are trying, experimenting, studying. It is a great transition period and much that we try now will doubtlessly be found insufficient and have to be modified or discarded by the next generation. But out of it all we believe a school will arise that will teach the essential things of rural life not taught generally in the home, as well as the essentials of arithmetic, grammar, geography and other subjects of the curriculum.

What are the essential things of rural life? They are home knowledge and farm knowledge. One-half of our people are home-makers; about one-fourth are farmers. Along these lines our rural schools must strive if they meet modern conditions. This work has been begun along the following lines: Teaching of sewing, teaching use of tools, teaching of agriculture, teaching of thrift through a county-wide savings system, parent-teachers' associations, boys' and girls' clubs, industrial contest work through local and county fairs, hot lunches for the rural schools, seed testing and seed selections, and consolidation of schools.

The success of this work is due entirely to those teachers who have seen the vision of what a country school may be and have entered heart and soul upon the work of making the vision a reality. I honor those above all other people and gladly pay them this tribute of respect for the noble work they are doing.

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SCHOOL HOUSE, DISTRICT NO. 214.

SCHOOL HOUSE, DISTRICT NO. 96.

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The county must acknowledge a debt of gratitude to the public high schools and graded schools and to the parochial schools that have given our young people advanced training.

Otter Tail county now has three high schools, six graded schools, two consolidated schools (one high school, one graded school), two hundred and sixty-seven rural schools, twelve thousand eight children attending public schools, four hundred and seventeen public school teachers and two hundred and eighty public school libraries. It paid out for its public schools in 1914-15 the sum of $349,115.42. Of this amount $171,671.11 was for teachers' salaries, $2,708.27 for library books, $6,453.61 for text books and $100.20 for transportation of pupils. The average daily attendance for each pupil was 114.45 days. The average monthly wages of men was $78.58; for women, $53.15. The average monthly wages in rural schools only: Men, $60.79; women, $50.56. The amount received from apportionment was $65,066.40. The special state aid (1913-1914) amounted to $43,133.90.

COUNTY SUPERINTENDENTS.

William M. Corliss, March 20, 1869, to November 18, 1871, died; Eben E. Corliss, November 18, 1871, to January 24, 1872; Newton H. Chittenden, January 24, 1872, to January 6, 1874, resigned; Lorenzo H. Preston, January 6, 1874, to April 6, 1876; George F. Cowing, April 6, 1876, to January 7, 1889; H. A. Bickford, January 7, 1889, to January 5, 1891; Caroline S. Nygren, January 5, 1891, to August 31, 1895, resigned; Otto M. Haugan, August 31, 1895, to June 1, 1898, resigned; Elma C. Hixson, June 1, 1898, to November 17, 1898; Andrew E. Fritz, November 17, 1898, to January 7, 1901; Christine C. Goetzinger, January 7, 1901, to January 7, 1907; Charlotte M. Knudson, January 7, 1907, to September 1, 1912, resigned; Signe Svendsgaard, September 1, 1912, to January 6, 1913; Lafayette R. Adley, January 6, 1913.

ASSISTANT COUNTY SUPERINTENDENTS.

H. A. Bickford, spring, 1885, to January 7, 1889; P. A. Williams, January 7, 1889, to January 5, 1891; J. F. Record, January 5, 1891, to August 1, 1892, resigned; H. B. Pardee, August 1, 1892, to August 1, 1893; W. B. Stewart, August 1, 1893, to September 1, 1896, resigned; George F. Cowing, September 1, 1896, to December 31, 1896; Andrew E. Fritz, January 10, 1897, to July 1, 1898; B. C. Mahoney, July 1, 1898, to January 1, 1899; U. S. G. Henry, January 1, 1899, to January 1, 1901; G. E. Parkhill, January 7, 1901, to October 1, 1903; W. R. Parkhill, October 1, 1902, to August 1, 1904; G. E. Parkhill, August 1, 1904, to June, 1906, resigned; J. L. Henn, June, 1906, to January 7, 1907; L. R. Adley, January 7, 1907,

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to September 1, 1912, resigned; D. G. Kelly, September 1, 1907, to January 6, 1913; Antoinette Henderson, January 6, 1913.

SECOND ASSISTANTS.

Mildred Surratt, January 1, 1912, to May 22, 1914, resigned; Hulda Swanson, May 23, 1914.

SCHOOLS OF FERGUS FALLS.

The first definite appearance of Fergus Falls as a separate school district was in 1872, at which time it was voted to make it a separate district for school purposes. The village had been incorporated in February of that year and the school district followed the corporation lines as defined in the acts of the Legislature. On May 24, 1872, an election was held to select school officers, and John W. Mason was elected clerk of the district, the twenty-first district to be organized in the county. The first school house in the village stood on west Lincoln avenue. As near as can be ascertained the first teacher was the Rev. E. Grussendorf, who came to the site of the village in 1869 with Ernest Buse, his brother-in-law. The attendance of the schools of the city have grown from the paltry dozen in 1871 to 1,501 in 1915. The schools have grown from year to year and shown the same progress along all lines that has marked the growth of the city along other lines. The citizens have been ready to furnish the school board with the needed funds to increase the equipment necessary for taking care of the increased enrollment.

The pride of the city now lies in its high school. In 1908 a manual training department was added to the high school and upper grades. This department is now equipped with electric motors and with all the necessary tools and appliances for doing high-grade work. While it is true that the manual training department is for the use of the boys, there are a few girls who are taking the work. But the school board has added a department of domestic science for the girls and this has become one of the most valuable features of the high school course. Cooking and sewing and various other domestic subjects are taught ,and if the girls of Fergus Falls in the future do not know how to bake a biscuit or cut out an apron it will not be the fault of the public schools. In 1910 a department of agriculture was added to the curriculum and this has proved to be a valuable adjunct. Cow testing is taught in the department, seed testing is given practical demonstration and many other phases of farm life are taught the boys by scientifically trained teachers. A fourth department which has been added in addition to the regular course, is the normal department. Students who take this in addition to the regular high school course, are entitled to a second-grade

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certificate as a teacher. This certificate may be exchanged for a first-grade certificate after three months of actual teaching.

The present high school building dates from 1905. In 1914 an addition was added which practically doubled the size of the building. The total cost of the building is one hundred and ten thousand dollars. The city has four ward buildings.

There are now twenty-two teachers in the high school and twenty-four in the grades. The enrollment in both high school and grades for the current year is just about fifteen hundred. A large number from the surrounding territory are students in the high school. The state gives special funds to certain high schools, and Fergus Falls is a recipient this year (1915-16) of the regular one thousand eight hundred dollars granted to the accredited high schools, as well as a fun of one thousand two hundred dollars for the normal department. The regular state apportionment for the current year is nine thousand dollars.

PARK REGION LUTHER COLLEGE.

Park Region Luther College was established as a corporate body in the spring of 1892. In the fall of the same year it commenced its mission as an academy, and continued as such until in 1909, when a full college course was added.

Like a number of other schools of this kind it owes its origin to an urgent demand on the part of the Norwegian church people for educational advantages conforming to their peculiar needs and educational ideals. The purpose of those who lent their efforts and contributed of their means towards the establishment and maintenance of this institution was to secure for their own children and insure to posterity such educational opportunities as they considered most desirable. They recognized the development of Christian character as the fundamental aim in education and accepted the further truth that only under the guidance and in the light of the word of God may we hope to realize this. In accordance with these ideals entertained by the founders of the school, Park Region Luther College has sought to extend its influence and to enlarge its sphere of usefulness.

While this school has always been accepted as one of the institutions of the synod, it has maintained a separate corporate organization and it did not until in 1909 receive any financial aid from the treasury of the general church body. At a delegate meeting of the Minnesota district of the synod held that year at Glenwood it was decided that two thousand five hundred dollars annually be appropriated towards maintaining a collegiate department. The corporation accepted this arrangement and proceeded at once to carry it into effect, and at the opening of the following school year college classes were organized. Since then the courses of instruction have been

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considerably extended, the faculty enlarged, and the number of students attending the school greatly increased. The general synod at its triennial meeting last year took over the obligation formerly assumed by the Minnesota district, at the same time increasing the annual allowance to six thousand dollars.

While these appropriations and the school's income otherwise have by no means kept pace with its actual growth during these years, the school has, nevertheless, faithfully endeavored to carry out its mission as a real college, the need of which in this great Northwest has become more and more apparent.

The school maintains besides a regular college department and an academy, a teachers' training department, a school of music and a business department. The library contains two thousand five hundred well-selected volumes, and it is being constantly added to all the time. About four hundred volumes on Greek and Latin have recently been acquired. Several daily papers and about forty magazines of various kinds are found on the shelves. In this connection it might be mentioned that the college issues a paper of its own, *The Scout,* a monthly publication issued during the school year by a staff of twelve students under the censorship of the professors of English and Norwegian.

The college grounds contain about fifteen acres and are located in the southwestern part of the city. The main building, a four-story structure of red brick trimmed with white sand stone, stands on an elevation commanding a fine view of the city and river. The basement of the building, which is high and well lighted, furnishes the necessary space for dining hall, kitchen and heating plant. Offices, library and recitation rooms occupy the first floor. The three upper floors provide dormitory accommodations for about two hundred students. The rooms are commodious and high, with large windows supplying ample natural light. The entire building is steam-heated and lighted by electricity.

The recently erected gymnasium, which has a floor space forty by seventy-five feet, with galleries on three sides, furnishes accommodation for basket ball, baseball and indoor athletics and has the necessary apparatus for varied training. This room serves also as an assembly hall for large gatherings. The stage is sufficiently roomy to accommodate the band and large choruses.

The enrollment in the college for 1914-15 was forty; in the academy, one hundred fifty-eight; in the commercial department, fifty-four; in stenography, twenty; in the musical department, fifteen; total students, two hundred eighty-seven. Of this number, one hundred ninety-seven were boys and ninety girls.

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NORTHWESTERN COLLEGE, FERGUS FALLS.

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PARK REGION LUTHER COLLEGE, FERGUS FALLS.

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NORTHWESTERN COLLEGE.

This institution of learning was founded by the Swedish Lutherans of the Northwest in the year 1900. There had been a long and deeply-felt want among the members of this church for an educational institution, located within easy reach of the numerous and steadily growing settlements of Northwestern Minnesota and the Dakotas, at which the Swedish Lutheran young people might be able to secure a liberal education along the lines of the Swedish national culture and based on Christian principles. In order to meet this want a number of pastors and laymen of that church formed the Northwestern College Corporation in 1900 and founded the school of that name. The first officers of the corporation were: Rev. James Moody, president; Rev. S. J. Kronberg, vice-president; Rev. Louis Johnson, secretary; Mr. Aug. Nygren, treasurer. Prof. A. C. Youngdahl was the first president of the school.

The institution was located at Fergus Falls, where a tract of land, containing seven and one-half acres, had been secured. The first building, of solid brick construction, was erected the same year. The work of the school was begun in January, 1901. Two years later a second building was erected. The two buildings contain class rooms for two hundred students, dormitories for one hundred and twenty and a dining room, where one hundred and fifty students can be accommodated.

The institution has five distinct departments: 1. The academy, which offers a standard high school course of four years. 2. The normal department, which is recognized by the state and offers a four-year course above the eighth grade in the public schools. Graduates from this department are granted first-grade certificates to teach in rural and semigraded schools of the state. 3. The school of commerce, which offers standard courses in the usual subjects taught at business colleges. 4. The school of music, where instruction is given in piano, pipe organ, voices, etc. The course in this department covers three years work. 5. The preparatory department, designed especially for boys and girls, who have not had an opportunity to complete all the grades in the public schools, and for "new comers," who wish to learn English and get acquainted with history, laws and customs of their adopted country.

The institution has a faculty of eight members. Rev. Carl Solomonson, B. D., is president. The average number of students during the past fifteen years has been about one hundred and fifty. The school is partly supported by the Red River conference of the Lutheran Augustano synod.

During the past few years the school has been hampered in its work by a crushing debt, but during the latter part of 1915 enough money was

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raised to pay the entire indebtedness, so the institution is now on a good financial footing, looking forward to an era of development and prosperity.

Northwestern College has been granted the privilege of giving the state high school board examinations and its graduates are admitted to the State University as well as to the colleges of this and neighboring states. Although Northwestern College is controlled and supported by the Swedish Lutheran church, students of other creeds and nationalities are admitted. No person will, however, be admitted or retained as a student who cannot present evidence of good moral character. During the past fifteen years nearly one thousand five hundred individuals have been enrolled as students at Northwestern College. Its alumni numbers over three hundred. These are pursuing their callings in different walks of life, happy and thankful that they have had the opportunity of securing a liberal education based on Christian principles.

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CHAPTER XXV.

THE TELEPHONE IN OTTER TAIL COUNTY.

One of the most civilizing influences of modern civilization is the telephone, and yet forty years ago it was unknown. It was in 1876 that Alexander Graham Bell sent his first telephonic communication over a wire, and during the two score of years which have elapsed since then the telephone has practically girdled the world. Just this last year President Wilson sat in his office in Washington and talked directly to San Francisco. Poor, indeed, is the community in 1916 which does not have connection with the outside world by means of the telephone.

Otter Tail county was not slow in adopting the new invention, and within six years after the invention was perfected, enterprising men of Fergus Falls were installing a telephone system. From that day Otter Tail county has gradually bound itself together with copper wire and today more than forty incorporated companies, as well as a number of smaller unincorporated companies, are found in the county. Every village can talk to the county seat, to the state capitol, to Chicago, New York, St. Louis or San Francisco. The farmer in the remotest township in the county may call up the stock market at St. Paul during any hour of the day and find the price of pork. Certainly the telephone has been a great thing for the farmers of Otter Tail county.

The history of the telephone in Otter Tail county dates from the organization of the Fergus Falls Telephone Exchange Company on March 20, 1882. The capital stock of this first company was limited to ten thousand dollars, which was divided into two hundred shares of fifty dollars each. The promoters of this original company were Charles D. Wright, W. C. Bedford and John D. Boyd, all residents of Fergus Falls. Of this company W. C. Bedford was president; John D. Boyd, secretary, and Charles D. Wright, treasurer. The system installed by this company was very crude in comparison to the one in use in the city today, but nevertheless it was an indication of the progressive spirit of the city. The first exchange was located at the corner of Cascade and Lincoln in a room in the First National Bank. It remained here until the system was taken out in 1892. An effort was made by the company to have telephones installed in the new court house, but the commissioners did not feel that it was necessary. Finally, however, the officials in the court house combined their private resources and installed one "hello box," as they called it, in the auditor's office. L. A. Levorsen, then a clerk in the auditor's office, was

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delegated with the duty of calling to the telephone any officer who was wanted at the telephone. In return for this accommodation the official was to pay the sum of five cents to Levorsen. The young clerk kept the list of his five cent patrons until it grew to be several feet in length and although he made desperate efforts to collect, it seems that he was unable to do so. Mr. Levorsen is now a clerk in the United States district court in Fergus Falls and says he still has the sheet of the long delinquent patrons of his "five-cent" telephone system. Later in the eighties the commissioners agreed to pay for the telephone in the court house and the bill for the services is entered regularly in the records as "hello box" rent.

Within a year from the time the Fergus Falls Telephone Exchange Company was established its owners disposed of it to the Northwestern Telephone Exchange Company for $5,000. In speaking of this sale the *Fergus Falls Journal* of April 3, 1883, says: "This company promises to give better facilities than ever before. Under their system conversations can be carried on a distance of forty miles." Under the new management the service was somewhat improved, but from sporadic outbursts in the local papers it is plain that it was not entirely satisfactory. A residence telephone cost four dollars and a half a month, and this may account for the difficulty the company had maintaining good service. This company continued in charge in Fergus Falls until 1892, when a succession of events which it is not necessary to recount in this connection, led to the withdrawal of the company from the city. For a period of six years, 1892-98, Fergus Falls was without a telephone, although the Northwestern maintained a toll station at N. J. Mortenson's drug store during this time. There were telephones left in both the railroad stations and Grand Hotel, but other than these four telephones all disappeared from the city. It seems a little queer to the modern generation that the city would have struggled along for that long a period without a telephone system, but it did. Facts are facts and uncontrovertible.

The second attempt to provide a telephone system for Fergus Falls was made in the summer of 1898. On June 4th of that year F. G. Barrows, Robert Hannah, E. A. Jewett and W. L. Parsons, of Fergus Falls, and W. H. Davy, of Moorhead, filed articles of incorporation for the Fergus Telephone Company. The original capital stock of the company was limited to fifteen thousand dollars, divided into one hundred fifty shares of one hundred dollars each. The company organized by electing the following officers: F. G. Barrows, president; W. H. Davy, vice-president; Robert Hannah, secretary-treasurer. The company installed the first exchange over the room now occupied by the Otter Tail Power Company's store on south Mill street. Within the next two years the exchange was removed to a

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building erected by Vernon Wright, which stood across from the postoffice. The barber shop of Puckett & Wick now occupies the room in which the exchange was formerly located. The company started out in 1898 with one hundred subscribers, the rate being one dollar per month for residences and two dollars for business houses. The system was not very satisfactory to a reticent loving public because the so-called "party line" system was used. The company continued to prosper from the beginning and within four years from the time it was established it was found necessary to increase the capital stock. On November 4, 1902, an amendment to the original articles of incorporation raised the amount of capital stcok to one hundred thousand dollars, seventy thousand of which was preferred and twenty-five thousand was common stcok. With this additional capital the company began to extend its business into the rural districts, but it soon found out that rural lines required an investment out of all proportion to the returns on the amount of capital required to install the lines.

In the spring of 1906 the company entered into negotiations with the Northwestern Telephone Exchange Company with the view of disposing of all of their telephone system in the county. At that time the local company had a fairly extensive system established in Fergus Falls, with several branch lines throughout the county. There were three main diverging lines from the city: (1) The Pelican Rapids line, via Elizabeth and Erhard, with a branch running from Elizabeth via Carlisle to Rothsay; (2) the Aastad line, running south, with a branch line to Roberts and westward through Western township to within three miles of Campbell, in Wilkin county, with smaller branches running off from the main line to Aastad; (3) the Wadena line to the east, with a line branching at Battle Lake north and west through Everts, Amour and Maine townships to Phelps. The Wadena branch also had two diverging lines at Henning, one northwest to the village of Otter Tail and the other southeast to the village of Parkers Prairie. For this system the Northwestern Telephone Exchange Company paid about forty thousand dollars.

The policy of the present management is to co-operate in every possible way with the various rural companies of the county, corporated and otherwise, in an effort to extend efficient service to every corner of the county. In 1910 the company rebuilt their whole system in Fergus Falls. At that time they changed from a grounded system to full metallic lines and installed underground cables throughout the whole business part of the city. They had planned to occupy their present home on north Court street in the spring of 1911, and in view of the fact that they were going to change their old quarters on Mill street, they felt it would be a most opportune time to overhaul the whole system in the city. Their present building

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was erected by the Fergus Falls National Bank and was occupied for the first time in April, 1911. At that time all the old telephones were taken out and burned, a new switchboard was installed and everything possible was done to make the plant strictly modern in every respect.

While the company was getting its switchboard in place in the new building in the fall of 1910, they met with a disastrous fire which postponed the use of the new building for nearly four months. On December 9, 1910, at twenty minutes after twelve, the switchboard, which was then just about completed, caught fire and within twenty minutes was a total loss. This fire cost the company at the rate of four hundred dollars a minute, the total loss being eight thousand dollars, not to mention the loss of time occasioned by the fire. This postponed the change from the old headquarters on Mill street until April 1, 1911. The exact cause of the fire was never determined, although it had always been maintained that if the dam had not gone out in Red river, thereby depriving the city of electric light, there would have been no fire. The men who were installing the switchboard were compelled to use candles and it was thought, but not proved, that the fire originated from a candle which had been left in the bottom of the switchboard among some waste.

The company now has fourteen hundred thirty-five telephones in Fergus Falls. In addition to this number the local exchange handles three hundred ninety-seven rural telephones, representing thirty-two different lines, all privately owned lines. In addition, the company owns an exchange at Battle Lake and one at Henning. The Battle Lake line has one hundred two telephones in the village and one hundred fifty-six on rural lines running into the village. Henning has ninety-nine subscribers in the village and one hundred fifty-four in the adjacent territory. The company owns the toll lines running from Fergus Falls in four directions: North to Pelican Rapids, east to Wadena, south to Nipes and west to Breckenridge. With these exceptions all the other lines in the county belong to private companies or individuals. Some idea of the growth of the company's business from 1906 to the present time may be seen when a comparison is made of the number of connections handled in 1906 and 1916. In 1906 there were three hundred local, and from ten to fifteen toll connections daily; in 1916 the number of local connections has increased to nine thousand, while there are at least five hundred toll connections each day.

The company offers switching connection to all of these rural companies—and there are more than fifty in the county—at the rate of twenty-five cents a month, or three dollars a year. All that it asks is that the rural lines have such equipment as will insure satisfactory service to the patrons on the line. Mr. Taylor, the present manager, has been bending every effort

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during the past two years to improve the quality of the service of the local companies. He has encouraged them to incorporate, given them all of the necessary instructions as to the management of their lines and in every other way tried to get the local companies to keep their lines and equipment in such a condition that their subscribers can have quick and easy access to all parts of the county. To do this Mr. Taylor has worked out a system of grouping where patrons are urged to attach themselves to that line which will insure them the best service. It must be understood that all of these are party lines and that when John Doe calls up Bessie that every other swain on the line, whether it be one or a hundred, can hear what he says to his Bessie. The difficulty which has confronted Mr. Taylor as local manager of the Northwestern is to keep down the number of subscribers on any one particular line and to distribute the patrons on the lines so that they will not overload any one particular line. Radiating from Fergus Falls alone are no less than thirty-two separate lines, the Friberg company having five of these lines. These thirty-two lines carry a total of three hundred ninety-seven telephones, all of which are in direct connection with the central station in Fergus Falls.

The local exchange now requires eighteen regular employes in addition to Mr. Taylor, the manager. These include twelve operators, three linemen, a wire chief, clerk and private secretary to the manager. In case of a storm, or whenever there is extra work needed, additional employees are sent into the county by the company. At other times some of the operators in Fergus Falls are transferred to other offices to relieve congested conditions. There has been one employee of the office, Harold Soderquist, who has been connected with the telephone history of Fergus Falls since 1898. He helped to install the system in 1898 and was manager of the Fergus Falls Telephone Company during its career of eight years, and continued as manager of the Northwestern Company in Fergus Falls until November 1, 1909. At that time George H. Gard became the manager and he retained this position until the close of 1911, when George Beatty became manager. He was replaced by L. D. Taylor, the present manager, in March, 1914.

The following pages give a brief history of all the telephone companies in the county outside of Fergus Falls. There are no less than fifty-three companies in the county, the great majority of them having been organized since 1908. Most of the companies are incorporated, but there are at least ten which have not yet taken out incorporation papers. With very few exceptions, all the data in the histories of these various companies has been obtained direct from their secretaries. In all other cases the information has been given by Mr. Taylor, the local manager of the Northwestern Telephone Exchange Company, in Fergus Falls.

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The Western Co-operative Rural Telephone Company was incorporated December 11, 1907, by W. S. Tombs, of Western township, August Nissen and G. H. Reamish, of Orwell township; O. H. Solberg, of Fergus Falls. The amount of capital stock, according to the original articles of this incorporation, was limited to thirty thousand dollars, divided into three thousand shares of ten dollars each. The first board of directors and also the first officers of this corporation were as follow: W. S. Tombs, president; O. M. Solberg, vice-president; G. H. Reamish, secretary and treasurer. The large amount of capital stock originally provided for may be understood when it is explained that this company, one of the earliest to incorporate in the county, was organized with the expectation of installing a system in Fergus Falls. Subsequent events caused a change of plans on the part of the company and caused them to limit their operations very largely to the township of Western. This company now has forty subscribers, but is planning to add twenty new patrons to its list during the summer of 1916. The headquarters of the company are at the town hall in Western township. The present officers of the company are as follow: O. N. Solberg, president; August Nissen, vice-president; Carl Fabian, treasurer; Fred B. Swift, secretary.

The Friberg Telephone Company was organized December 14, 1911, with the following incorporators: Ferdinand Peters, E. W. Leeper, Arthur A. Krause, Henry Baumgarten, Henry R. Wenstrum, Herman Duenow, Joseph Elliott, John Seebe and Charles Drager. The capital stock of this corporation was limited to three thousand five hundred dollars, consisting of one hundred shares of the par value of thirty-five dollars per share. The first officers of the corporation were as follow: President, Ferdinand Peters; vice-president, Arthur A. Krause; secretary, E. W. Leeper; treasurer, Herman Duenow. The officers, together with Henry Baumgarten, Charles Drager and Henry Wenstrom, constituted the first board of directors. This company now has four lines, with a total of eighty-one subscribers. The company's lines extend to the corporate limits of Fergus Falls, where they connect with the city lines and the local exchange. The secretary of the company is H. F. Duenow.

The Sebeka Western Telephone Company was organized March 30, 1915, by the following stockholders: August Aho, Martin Bengston, Frank Gustafson, Carl Gustafson, Emil Maata, Victor Turnbladh and Art Pearson. The capital stock was limited to seven hundred dollars, divided equally among the seven stockholders. The principal place of business of this company is in the township of Blowers, although the company's charter allows it to extend its business in the future. The original officers, who are still serving, are as follow: President, August Aho; vice-president, Martin

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Bengston; secretary, Frank Gustafson; treasurer, Carl Gustafson; directors, Oscar Hietala, Victor Turnbladh and Art Pearson. The company has eighteen miles of wire for its twenty subscribers living in Paddock and Blowers townships.

The Erhard Telephone Company was organized in 1904 and is now one of the larger companies of the county. Its service is practically all confined to the village and the adjacent territory within the township. The company owns its own switchboard in Erhard and also does switching for the Barbwire Telephone Company. A line extends to Rothsay and also one in the direction of Barnesville. The line now has two hundred and six subscribers.

The French Telephone Company was incorporated on April 20, 1908. The amount of capital stock of this corporation is limited to twenty thousand dollars, of which nineteen hundred dollars has been issued. The corporators were as follow: John J. Tomhave, Ferdinand Pergande and John Jacob Tomhave, all residing in the township of Carlisle; George E. Tomhave, residing in the township of Fergus Falls, and Charles R. Wright, of Fergus Falls. The first board of directors and officers of this company were as follow: John J. Tomhave, president; John Jacob Tomhave, vice-president; Chrales R. Wright, secretary; Ferdinand Pergande, treasurer; and George E. Tomhave. The principal place of transacting the business of this corporation is at the school house of district ninety-six in the township of Fergus Falls. This company, which is purely a co-operative company, now has seventeen miles of line and twenty-five miles of wire, with thirty-eight subscribers. The present officers are as follow: William Zimmer, president; C. R. Wright, secretary; John J. Tomhave, Louis Tomhave and Charles Manske, directors. The company has switching connection with the Northwestern at Fergus Falls.

The Oscar Telephone Company was organized in 1904, shortly after the Northwestern Exchange Telephone Company put its toll line through the village of Elizabeth. The company operates in the townships of Oscar and Elizabeth and in the villages of Elizabeth and Carlisle. There are now on hundred and sixty patrons of the company, all but thirty of whom are in the rural districts. Twenty-eight subscribers are in Elizabeth and two in Carlisle. The present officers are as follow: Henry Halderson, president; John Honeycomb, vice-president; C. O. Kantrude, secretary; Ole Haug, treasurer. The company maintains an exchange in Elizabeth.

The Fergus Falls Rural Telephone Company was organized January 30, 1915, with the following incorporators: M. C. Kronemann, William Schoening, Henry Kissinger, Herman Steinback and August Schulz. The principal place of business of this corporation is at Fergus Falls township.

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The amount of the capital stock of this corporation was limited to twenty-four hundred dollars, consisting of forty shares, at the par value of sixty dollars per share. The first officers were as follow: President, M. C. Kronemann; vice-president, William Schoening; secretary and treasurer, Henry Kissinger. The officers, together with Herm Steinback and August Schultz, constituted the first board of five directors. These officers are still serving in their respective capacities. The company now has twenty-nine subscribers.

The Parkers Prairie Telephone Exchange Company dates back to the time when the Northwestern Company bought out the local company in Fergus Falls. At that time the Northwestern had a station in Parkers Prairie. Later, Charles Alexander got control of the Parkers Prairie Exchange and he disposed of it in August, 1912, to Earl Hutchinson, its present owner. There are one hundred five telephones in the village and two hundred thirteen on the eight lines radiating from the village. All of these rural lines are owned by private companies and pay a stipulated annual sum to the exchange in Parkers Prairie for switching connection.

The Hay Creek Farmers Co-operative Telephone Company was organized in March, 1915, with the following incorporators: Johannes Koski, Abram Siirila, Ben Pantsari, Oscar Johnson, A. A. Ehnert, Abram Matti, August Anderson, Lars Anderson, Leesa Wesala and John Anderson. The principal place of business of this corporation is in Blowers township, although the company also has subscribers in paddock township. The capital stock of this corporation is eight hundred dollars, consisting of eighty shares, of the par value of ten dollars each. The first officers of the corporation were as follow: President, Johannes Koski; vice-president, Abram Siirila; secretary, Oscar Johnson; treasurer, Ben Pantsari. The officers, together with A. A. Ehnert, Abram Matti and August Anderson, constituted the board of directors. The company now has twenty-six telephones in operation, with a total wire mileage of thirty-five miles. The present officers are as follow: Johannes Koski, president; Fred Windels, vice-president; Oscar A. Johnson, secretary; Abram Siirila, treasurer; A. A. Ehnert, Ben Pantsari, Lars Anderson, directors. The exchange of the company is in Sebeka, a village in Wadena county to the east of Blowers township.

The Effington Telephone Company was organized February 1, 1907, with the capital stock limited to five thousand dollars, which later was increased to eight thousand dollars. The incorporators of this company were Thomas Koep, John Hardekopf, George J. Kreamer, Claus Ahlf, Peter Hink, August Zimmerman and John Fridgen, all of Effington. The general business of this corporation, as set forth in its notices of incorporation, was the construction, maintenance and operation of a telephone plant or

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system, connecting the townships, cities and villages within the county of Otter Tail and other counties in the state of Minnesota, having less than two thousand inhabitants. The principal place of business is at Urbank, in the township of Effington. The first officers of this corporation were: Thomas Koep, president; John Hardekopf, vice-president; George Kreamer, secretary; Claus Ahlf, treasurer; Peter Hink, August Zimmerman and John Fridgen, trustees.

The present officers of the company are as follow: George Frendenberg, president; J. M. Prazak, vice-president; J. A. Fridgen, secretary; Claus Ahlf, treasurer; Peter Hink, August Zimmerman and T. A. Howe, directors. The company has one hundred thirty-six miles of wire for its one hundred eighty-two subscribers.

The Battle Lake Farmers Mutual Telephone Company was organized January 27, 1908, with the following incorporators: Ludvign Jensen, William Bondy, Knud Hanson, August Bjorkland, Nels Hustad, J. B. Thompson, E. K. Evenson, A. Sandstrom, L. L. Wickstrom and A. C. Hatch. The principal place of transacting business is at the village of Battle Lake. The capital stock of this corporation was limited to ten thousand thirty-five dollars, to be divided into two hundred twenty-three shares of forty-five dollars each. The first officers of this corporation were as follow: President, Ludvig Jenson; vice-president, William Bondy; secretary, August Bjorkland; treasurer, Knute Hanson. The officers, together with J. B. Thompson, E. . Evenson, A. Sandstrom, L. L. Wickstrom and A. C. Hatch, constituted the first board of ten directors. This company has always been well managed and now has one hundred fifty-one telephones in operation. The present officers are as follow: Ludwig Jenson, president; J. B. Thompson, secretary; Knute Hanson, treasurer.

The Girard Rural Telephone Company was organized July 10, 1915, with the following incorporators: Ben Kimber, W. S. Genaros, Lester Whiting, Rupert Locker and C. G. Ricker. The principal place of business of this corporation is at Clitherall. The capital stock of this corporation was limited to two thousand dollars, consisting of forty shares. The first officers of the corporation, who are still (1916) serving, were as follow: President, Ben Kimber; vice-president, W. S. Genaros; secretary and treasurer, Lester Whiting. The officers, together with Rupert Looker and C. G. Ricker, constitute the present board of directors. This company obtains switching connection with the Clitherall Telephone Company in the village of Clitherall. The exchange is owned by Julius Severson and he charges the Girard line one dollar and fifty cents a month for service.

The Star Lake and Dent Farmers Rural Telephone Company was organized April 24, 1908, with the following incorporators: E. D. Garber,

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H. M. Hancock, Albert Obert, Otto Kanne and Henry Tenter, all residents of Dent. The amount of the capital stock of this corporation was five hundred dollars and was paid in, at such times and places and in such a manner and such amounts as was called for by its board of directors. The principal place of transacting business of this corporaion was at Dent and the annual meetings of the stockholders of said corporation are held on the third Tuesday in December. The first board of directors consisted of Albert Obert, Otto Kanne, and E. D. Gerber, the original incorporators and the first officers were as follow: H. M. Hancock, president; Albert Obert, vice-president; Otto Kanne, secretary, and E. D. Garber, treasurer. This company is now amalgamated with the Amor-Dead Lake and the Maine-Star Lake Company and has lost its identity as an individual company.

The Fish Lake Telephone Company was organized June 12, 1914, with the following incorporators: H. B. Quitmeyer, Herman Johnke, William Kendall, John Duberowski and Albert Ost. The capital stock of this corporation was limited to six thousand dollars, divided into twenty shares of the par value of thirty dollars each. The principal place of business is in the township of Parkers Prairie. The first officers were as follow: President, H. F. Quitmeyer; vice-president, Herman Johnke; secretary and treasurer, William Kendall. The officers, together with John Duberowske and Albert Ost, constituted the first board of five directors. This company operates in the southwestern part of Parkers Prairie township and in Douglas county.

The Eastern Farmers Telephone Company was organized April 13, 1912, with the following incorporators: Leander Peterson, August Peterson, Ernest Peterson, Frank Hellgren, Claus Sundberg, Loth Holm, J. A. B. Hulstrand, O. K. Hanson, Gust Johnson, Hans Arvidson, Henry Sjobeck, N. J. Skoglund, John Smith, W. H. Smith, Nels Arvidson, Charles Magnuson, Arthur Parson, Willie Tanglien, Adolph C. Rosenquist, Mrs. Katie Skerick, J. P. Peterson, Lewis Peterson, Peter Lovgren, David Nelson and A. B. Rosenquist. The principal place of business of this corporation is located in the township of Eastern, but the service of this company covers the counties of Otter Tail, Douglas and Todd. The capital stock of this corporation was limited to nine thousand dollars and is divided into three hundred shares of the par value of thirty dollars each. The first officers were as follow: W. H. Smith, president; N. J. Skogdund, vice-president; A. B. Rosenquist, secretary; N. J. Skoglund, treasurer. The first board of directors consisted of the first officers and Willie Tanglien and Peter Lovgren. Practically all of the business of this company is transacted in the counties of Douglas and Todd.

The Barbwire Telephone Company was organized in 1906 as a mutual

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company and is still operating as such. The name is no longer indicative of the kind of wire used, but when the company was first started it actually used barbwire. Taking advantage of the barbwire fences which ran from one homestead to another, the farmers of Oscar township utilized them to install telephonic communication with each other. When the line crossed the road it was raised sufficiently high to accommodate all passing traffic, and again lowered to the ordinary fence height. As the number of subscribers grew, the barbwire was gradually replaced by regular telephone wire, and at the present time all that it left of the barbwire is found in the name of the company. The company has thirty-two telephones in operation and maintains its current expenses by an assessment levied on each member of the company. Nels Hegseth is the president and Carl A. Sethern is secretary of the company.

The Maine-Star Lake Telephone Company was organized, April 1, 1911, with an authorized capital stock of four thousand nine hundred dollars, of which nine hundred has been issued. The names of the incorporators were as follow: C. E. Bingham, Charles Johnson, A. O. Chapin, August Sandberg, James Burns, J. H. Dinsmore, R. J. Perry, Peter Nygren, Carl Waldmoe, R. A. Coats and C. S. Blevins. The first officers were: C. E. Bingham, president; Charles Johnson, vice-president; August Sandberg, secretary and treasurer. The principal place of business of this corporation is in the township of Maine.

The company now has forty-five telephones in operation. It connects with the Northwestern at Battle Lake. The company also owns a toll line from Phelps to Battle Lake in partnership with the Amor-Dead Lake Telephone Company. Connection is maintained with the toll line at Amor and with the Star Lake-Dent Farmers Rural Telephone Company at the store of A. L. Vogel in Star Lake township. The present officers are as follow: Charles Johnson, president; A. L. Vogel, vice-president; A. O. Chapin, secretary and treasurer; H. D. Harmon, Edward Lawrenson, Guy Phelps and J. H. Dinsmore, directors.

The Henning-Star Telephone Company was organized, January 15, 1912, with an authorized capital stock limited to thirty-five hundred dollars. The incorporators of the company were Charles Johnson, Morris Peterson, Ole E. Olson, Anton Hanson, Samuel Anderson, Oscar Ellingson, all residing in the township of Henning; John Hanson, K. B. Wilkinson, Nick Martine, Edward Ellingson, Nycklye Hanson, Voley P. Wilkinson, Ben Elisson, all residing in the township of Leaf Lake, and Theander Carlson, residing in the township of Deer Creek. The first officers of the incorporation were as follow: Charles Johnson, president; Morris Peterson, vice-

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president; Ole E. Olson, secretary, and John Hanson, treasurer. The first board of directors was made up of the first officers and Anton Hanson, K. B. Wilkinson and Nick Martine. The principal place of business of this corporation is in the township of Henning.

Although this company has only twenty telephones in operation, yet it is one of the best managed rural lines in the county. Its operating expenses are met by an annual assessment, which varies from fifty cents to a dollar. The subscribers of this company claim that their service is as good as that furnished by the Northwestern Company, and that this is due to the fact that they have a metallic line. The present officers of the company are as follow: August Bjorklund, president; Morris Peterson, vice-president; O. E. Olson, secretary; John Hanson, treasurer; Nordal Ellinson, troubleman; Oscar Ellingson, T. Carlson and Anton Hanson, directors.

The Lake Irene Telephone Company was organized, April 13, 1915, with the following incorporators: E. F. Miller, Louis Steinke, A. J. Abbott, Theodore Haarstick and O. A. Lyon. The principal place of business of the company is at the village of Parkers Prairie. The capital stock of this corporation was limited to fifteen hundred dollars, which is divided into fifty shares of the par value of thirty dollars each. The first officers of the company were as follow: President, E. F. Miller, vice-president, Louis Steinke; secretary and treasurer, A. J. Abbott. These officers, together with Theodore Haarstick and O. A. Lyon, constituted the first board of five directors. The company has nineteen telephones in operation in the township of Parkers Prairie, the total length of the main line being eight miles. The present officers are as follow: O. A. Lyon, president; Albert Zunker, vice-president; A. J. Abbott, secretary; Louis Steinke and H. L. Olbeckson, directors.

The company now known as the Clitherall Mutual Telephone Company was first organized as the Clitherall Rural Telephone Company on March 30, 1910. The first officers of the company were as follow: I. L. Streeter, president; J. A. Anderson, vice-president; Ira Marsh, secretary; Charles Paulson, treasurer; P. P. Brodin, H. C. Rasmusson and John Klimp, directors. This company continued as a voluntary association for nearly five years before it was incorporated. On November 20, 1915, it filed incorporation articles under the name of the Clitherall Mutual Rural Telephone Company, with five thousand and forty dollars capital stock of which two thousand five hundred thirty-two dollars is now paid up. The company has sixty-one telephones in operation. The officers elected when the company was incorporated are still serving, viz: Nils Anderson, president; O. C. Ukkelberg, vice-president; C. H. Leth, secretary; S. E. Halverson, treasurer; Christ Johnson, P. P. Brodin and H. C. Rasmusson, directors.

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The Vergas Telephone Company was organized, October 15, 1909, with an authorized capital stock of ten thousand dollars, of which three thousand one hundred forty dollars is now paid up. The principal place of transacting business of this corporation is at the village of Vergas. The original incorporators were W. B. Carman, of Detroit, and James Nesbitt and A. G. Schwartzrock, of Vergas. The board of directors consisted of the incorporators. The first officers were as follow: W. B. Carmen, president; James Nesbitt, secretary, and A. G. Schwartzrock, treasurer. The annual stockholders' meetings are held on the second Monday in January. The stock of the company is now owned by L. W. Oberhauser, A. G. Schwartzrock, P. F. Schroeder, James Nesbitt, C. D. Chaffee and Mrs. Charles Hoffman. The one hundred seventy-four subscribers of the company are in the village of Vergas and the surrounding townships of Candor, Hobart, Edna and Dora. The present officers are as follow: L. W. Oberhauser, president; James Nesbitt, vice-president and manager; C. D. Chaffee, secretary and treasurer.

The Aastad & Buse Telephone Company was organized, December 8, 1913, with the following incorporators: J. C. Easterday, John Thorson, M. E. Bergerud, H. H. Kastelle and Otto Hole. The original capital stock of this corporation was one thousand dollars, which has since been increased to ten thousand dollars. The first officers were as follow: J. C. Easterday, president; John Thorson, vice-president; M. E. Bergerud, secretary and treasurer. These officers, together with H. H. Kastelle and Otto Hole, constituted the first board of directors. The fifty-eight subscribers of this company are nearly all in Aastad and Buse townships. The present officers are as follow: John Newman, president; M. E. Bergerud, secretary and treasurer; H. H. Kastelle, E. O. Brevig and A. Johnson, directors.

The Excelsior Rural Telephone Company was organized, May 18, 1914, with the following incorporators: Fred Lother, Albert H. Beske, Henry Luther, Fred Boese, A. O. Quam and James M. Quam. The amount of the capital stock of this corporation is three thousand dollars, consisting of fifty shares of sixty dollars each. The first officers were as follow: Fred Lother, president; Albert H. Beske, vice-president; James M. Quam, secretary and treasurer. These officers, together with Henry Luther, Fred Boese and A. O. Quam, constituted the first board of six directors. The only change in officers since the company was organized has been in the presidency. J. W. Roehl is the head of the company. The fifteen subscribers of the company are in the townships of Fergus Falls and Carlisle.

The Swan Lake Telephone Company was organized, January 19, 1915, with the following incorporators: Andrew Anderson, Chris Weiby, J. Roberts, Phil DeLagoon and John Krogstad. The place of business of this

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corporation is in the township of Buse. The original capital stock of this corporation was limited to one thousand dollars, consisting of twenty-five shares, at the par value of forty dollars per share. The first officers of the corporation were as follow: President, Andrew Anderson; vice-president, Chris Weiby; secretary and treasurer, J. Roberts. These officers, together with Phil DeLagoon and John Krogstad, constituted the first board of five directors and no change has been made in the officers since the company was incorporated. They now have eight telephones in operation.

The Wrightstown Telephone Company was organized on June 1, 1913, with a capital stock limited to ten thousand dollars. The principal place of transacting business of this corporation is in Wrightstown. The incorporators were as follow: E. A. Perkins, residing at Bertha, in Todd county; F. Townley, of Wrightstown, and R. V. Smith, of Parkers Prairie. The first officers were: F. Townley, president; E. A. Perkins, treasurer, and R. V. Smith, secretary, who also comprised the first board of directors.

At first the company installed a central exchange at Wrightstown, but it was soon found impractical to maintain it and in the fall of 1915 it was discontinued. The central switchboard is now at Bertha, in Todd county. The company has expended seven hundred dollars in wiring and equipment sufficient to provide for forty-five subscribers. The present officers are as follow: Julius Schwantz, president; John C. Lieder, secretary; E. A. Perkins, treasurer.

The Aurdal Rural Telephone Company was organized, March 10, 1914, with the following incorporators: Johan E. Boen, A. E. Braaten, O. G. Torgerson, John Teisberg, Alfred Bergerud and William Kumm. The principal place of business of this corporation is in the township of Aurdal. The capital stock of this corporation was four thousand dollars, to be divided into eighty shares of the par value of fifty dollars each. The first officers of the corporation were as follow: President, John E. Boen; vice-president, A. E. Braaten, and O. G. Torgerson, secretary and treasurer. The following are the directors of this corporation: John E. Boen, A. E. Braaten, O. G. Torgerson, Alfred Bergerud, Wilhelm Kumm and John Teisberg.

At the annual meeting of the stockholders on February 8, 1916, the following officers were elected: President, N. M. Nelson; vice-president, John Teisberg; secretary-treasurer, Onan Torgerson; directors, Alfred Bergerud, Oluf Hove and A. Engebretson; linemen, H. Bergerud and H. Anderson. At this meeting it was voted to assess each shareholder fifty cents for the expense of keeping the lines in order. It was also decided to have a line built along the state road in the northern part of the township during the ensuing spring. The shareholders voted not to sell shares of

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stock in the future for less than fifty-eight dollars a share. The company now has sixty-seven telephones.

The Effington Mutual Telephone Company was organized, April 6, 1914, with the following incorporators: Richard Wangerin, Albert Thun, William Korbenick, Albert Hollaty, August Dickoff, August Hallatz, Otto Korger, Frank Ost, Gustav Wangerin and Emil Korbenick. The capital stock of this corporation was limited to one thousand dollars, of which amount five hundred eighty dollars represents the paid-up capital stock at the present time. The first officers of this corporation were as follow: President, Richard Wangerin; vice-president, Albert Thun; secretary, August Hallatz; treasurer, William Korbenick. The officers, together with August Dickhoff, constituted the first board of five directors. During the two years this company has been in operation the first officers, with the exception of the secretary, have remained unchanged. The present secretary is W. C. Mielke. The company now has twenty-five telephones in use.

The Dane Prairie-Buse Telephone Company was organized, February 17, 1914, with the following incorporators: Arnt Huseby, Charles E. Drews, Albert Bjorgum, Ernest A. Rossow, John J. Fossen, Albert A. Anderson, Pete Halsness, Tom Tvedt and Odin Back. The capital stock of this corporation is two thousand dollars, consisting of fifty shares, of the par value of forty dollars per share. The first officers of this corporation were as follow: President, Ernest A. Rossow; vice-president, John J. Fossen; secretary and treasurer, Albert Bjorgum. These officers, together with Tom Tvedt and Albert A. Anderson, constituted the first board of five directors, and they are still serving in their respective capacities. The company has eleven telephones in operation.

The Pelican Telephone Company was organized, March 18, 1904, with a capital stock which was limited to twenty-five thousand dollars. Of this amount eighteen thousand dollars has been issued to stockholders. The names of the persons forming this corporation were as follow: J. P. Wallace, O. M. Carr, N. P. Moen, C. L. Ward, C. D. Haugen, Knute S. Stenerson and O. J. Morrison, all of whom reside at Pelican Rapids, Minnesota. The first officers were as follow: President, J. P. Wallace; vice-president, O. M. Carr; treasurer, N. P. Moen; secretary and manager, C. L. Ward. The principal place of transacting the business of this corporation is at the village of Pelican Rapids. This is the largest telephone company in Otter Tail county outside of Fergus Falls, and now has a total of five hundred fifty-six telephones in use, one hundred ninety-one in the village of Pelican Rapids, and three hundred sixty-five in the rural districts surrounding the village. The present officers of the company are as follow: C. D. Haugen, president; Ole G. Helseth, vice-president; O. M. Carr, treasurer; O. J. Mor-

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rison, Erick Aarness and P. R. Peterson, directors; J. F. Logan, secretary and manager.

The Richville Telephone Company was organized, March 10, 1908, with the following incorporators: James Shaw, T. K. Johnson, O. A. Zimmer, C. A. Friberg, Jr., J. Oswald, Frederick Prentice and C. F. Franz, all of Richville. The original capital stock of this corporation was limited to five thousand dollars. The principal place of business of this corporation is at Richville. The incorporators constituted the first board of directors. The local company is owned and operated by the business men of Richville.

The Park Region Mutual Telephone Company was incorporated, March 10, 1906, with a capital stock of ten thousand dollars, which was divided into two hundred and fifty shares, of forty dollars each. The following persons constituted the board of managers until the first regular meeting of 1907: Thomas Larson, president; Theodore Sjorval, vice-president; E. S. Evenson, treasurer; Carl H. Christianson, secretary; N. E. Nelson, L. A. Boe, C. B. Erickson, M. N. Rovang and L. P. Olsen, directors. The chief purpose of this corporation was to purchase the rural telephone line which was at that time in operation under the name of the New Independent Telephone Company. The principal place for the transaction of the business of this company is at Underwood, in the township of Sverdrup.

At a meeting of the company in the village of Dalton on February 6, 1912, at which time S. M. Skrove was president and C. E. Olsen was secretary, an amendment was made to the original articles of incorporation, placing the amount of the capital stock at twenty thousand dollars, divided into five hundred shares of forty dollars each. The company now has four hundred seventeen telephones in use, with two switchboards, one in Underwood and the other in Dalton. The present officers are as follow: Louis Anderson, president; C. E. Olson, secretary; L. A. Boe, treasurer; John Benson, M. N. Rovang, C. E. Larson, Fred Watloo, Henry Bye and S. M. Skrove, directors.

The Fergus Falls & Jewett Lake Rural Telephone Company was organized, January 10, 1916, by the following incorporators: W. R. Chapin, president; P. J. Dohrer, vice-president; Herman Keilmeyer, secretary and treasurer; directors, George Merz, William Homan and Walter Drechsel. The capital stock of the company was fixed at one thousand five hundred dollars. This company started out with fourteen subscribers.

The Amor-Dead Lake Telephone Company was organized, March 30, 1914, with the following incorporators: F. H. Langvick, John Lien, J. E. Ritchey, H. Larson, Oscar Hult, C. J. Swanson, John Long, Peder Lien and Sven Holmgren. The original capital stock of this corporation was three thousand dollars, but it has since been increased to three thousand six

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hundred dollars. The principal place of business of this corporation is in the township of Amor. The first officers of the corporation were as follow: President, John Lien; vice-president, J. A. Gaylord; secretary and treasurer, F. H. Langvick. The management of this corporation is vested in its officers and a board of three directors elected each year by the stockholders of the company.

Although this company has been in operation less than two years, it already has a hundred telephones in use. The company plans to make extensive improvements in both lines and service during the spring and summer of 1916. The company has united with the Dent-Star Lake Company in installing an exchange at Amor. The company has a line running to Battle Lake, where connection is made with the Northwestern. The present officers of the company include the following: John Lien, president; F. H. Langvick, secretary and treasurer; H. N. Bixby, C. O. Hult and S. T. Putnam, directors; T. Johnson, general manager and lineman.

The Heinola Telephone Company was organized, July 1, 1909, with a capital stock of twenty-one hundred dollars. The names of the persons forming this corporation were as follow: Henry Anderson, Ottertail; J. P. Aarni, M. H. Korkalo, John Carlund, F. O. Haapasaari, Jonas Ojala and Fred Wapola, all of New York Mills. The first officers of this corporation were: J. P. Aarni, president; Henry Anderson, vice-president; M. H. Korkalo, treasurer; John Carlund, secretary; Jonas Ojala, F. O. Haapasaari and Fred Wapola, directors. The principal place of business of this corporation is at New York Mills. The business of this company has increased so rapidly that it has been found necessary to increase its capital stock. At the present time the company has five thousand nine hundred twenty-one dollars and fifty cents invested in equipment. It has eighty-one and a half miles of wire at the present time and is planning to make extensive additions to its lines this year. The company has one hundred twenty-four subscribers and is adding to this number all the time. The present officers follow: John Perala, president; J. E. Niemela, vice-president; John Carlund, secretary; William Anttila, treasurer; William Oman, Edward Blomberg, Jacob Tumberg, directors.

The Henning-Vining Telephone Company was organized, May 1, 1911, with a capital stock limited to four thousand dollars, and up to the present time forty shares, valued at twenty dollars each, have been issued. The names of the parties forming this corporation were as follow: Anton B. Trana, Melvin B. Lund, John Guisnes, Ole K. Nyhus, all residents of Vining; Arnt Monson, Lars Bendickson, Charles W. Brandborg and John S. Johnson, the latter residents of Henning. The first officers selected to serve this corporation were as follow: Arnt Monson, president; Lars Bendickson,

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vice-president; Melvin B. Lund, secretary and treasurer. The annual meetings of the stockholders of this corporation are held on the second Saturday in June of each year.

The line of the Henning-Vining Company is built from East Battle Lake to Henning and Vining and makes connections with the Northwestern Telephone Exchange Company at Henning. There are now forty-one telephones in use. The officers for 1916 are as follow: John Guisnes, president; E. E. Ramberg, vice-president; O. A. Lund, secretary and treasurer. These three officers and H. E. Berggren and Arnt Monson constitute the board of directors.

The Henning-Almora Telephone Company was organized on January 14, 1914, with the following incorporators: W. J. Henderson, George W. Moats, Edward Parks, George F. Johnson, Nels N. Holt, Jacob M. Hursh, Joe Saby, O. J. Smith, Fay W. Butterfield, J. D. Linquist and Andrew Nelson. The capital stock of this corporation was limited to three thousand dollars. The first officers of this corporation were as follow: President, Jacob M. Hursh; vice-president, J. D. Linquist; secretary, W. J. Henderson; treasurer, George F. Johnson. These officers, together with George W. Moats, O. J. Smith and Joe Saby, constituted the first board of directors.

This company has now been in operation about two years and in that time has issued capital stock to the amount of five hundred dollars. There are nineteen telephones in use at the present time. The officers for the current year are as follow: Nels N. Holt, president; O. J. Smith, vice-president; R. Sydow, secretary and treasurer. These three officers, with George Turner, Andrew Nelson, E. E. Inman and Mr. Shaw, constitute the present board of directors.

The Parkers Prairie Farmers Telephone Company was organized on January 25, 1910, with the following incorporators: Axel Olson, Frank E. Larson, N. P. R. Nelson, Charles Moll, Martin Berg, August M. Liljgren, C. Nelson, J. G. Nelson, C. U. Carlson, Axel T. Nelson, Oscar W. Lindquist and Charles Lindblad. The first officers of the corporation were as follow: President, N. P. R. Nelson; vice-president, Axel Olson; secretary, Frank E. Larson; treasurer, Charles Moll. These officers, together with August M. Liljgren, Martin Borg and Alfred Mohngren, constituted the first board of directors.

The company was organized for the purpose of giving telephone service in the township of Parkers Prairie, Elmo, Woodside, Eastern and Effington, and any other townships, villages or cities, not exceeding two thousand inhabitants, within the county of Otter Tail and other counties in the state of Minnesota.

The company is now operating with a capital stock of one thousand five

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hundred sixty dollars. It has thirty-two miles of main line, which it operates in three sections. One line runs northeast of Parkers Prairie, another line runs northwest of the village, while the third runs north into the village of Almora and there connects with the Folden Telephone Company's line. The company plans to build about twelve miles of new lines in the spring of 1916 into and through the township of Elmo, thereby adding twelve new subscribers. The Parkers Prairie Telephone Exchange Company does all of the switching for the Farmers Telephone Company at the rate of three dollars a year. The present officers are as follow: Martin Berg, president; Ole Hanson, vice-president; Charles Moll, secretary and treasurer.

The Deer Creek Telephone Company was organized, September 27, 1906, with the following incorporators: Harold A. Baker, Arthur D. Baker and John O. Smith. The place of business of this corporation is located at the village of Deer Creek. The capital stock of this corporation was limited to twenty-five thousand dollars, and up to the present time three thousand two hundred sixty dollars has been issued. The original government of this corporation was vested in a board of three directors, who were also appointed as the officers. These first officers were as follow: President, Harold A. Baker; vice-president, Arthur D. Baker; treasurer and secretary, John O. Smith. These officers are still serving in the same capacity. The company now has about two hundred sixty telephones in use.

The Perham Rural Telephone Company was organized, January 28, 1909, with a capital stock limited to four thousand dollars, divided into one hundred shares of forty dollars each. The principal place of business of this corporation is at Perham. The names of the parties forming this corporation were as follow: F. D. Sieling, Albert Benke, Charles Allstadt, Louis Schroeder and George Allstadt. The officers of this corporation consist of a president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer and a board of five directors elected at the annual meeting of the stockholders.

During the seven years that this company has been in operation it has found it necessary to increase its capital stock until at the present time it amounts to twelve thousand dollars. The company now has three hundred fifteen phones in use. The present officers are as follow: Jacob Jung, president; F. D. Sieling, vice-president; Charles Allstadt, secretary; William Wessel, treasurer. These officers, with the addition of Joseph Stold, constitute the board of directors.

The Compton Rural Telephone Company was organized, April 15, 1913, with a capital stock limited to one thousand dollars. The company now has thirty-eight miles of wire, most of which is in Compton township, the rest of it being in Deer Creek township to the west and Todd county to the east. The Compton, Oak Valley & Hewitt telephone lines have a joint

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exchange at Hewitt, the three lines—locally known as 3, 29 and 37—terminating at Hewitt. Line 29, with thirteen subscribers, is a direct line between Deer Creek and Hewitt via Compton township. Lines 3 and 37, with thirteen and twelve subscribers, respectively, extend from Hewitt into the surrounding community, the whole system being under the following management: J. B. Lehman, president; Swan Johnson, vice-president; A. W. Chapman, secretary and manager; H. A. Bowman, treasurer; William Lahrman, A. W. Greibenow and F. G. Trollier, directors.

In addition to the incorporated companies which have been mentioned, there are a number of voluntary associations which have not yet taken out incorporation articles. Six of these companies are connected with the Fergus Falls exchange. Their names, the number of their subscribers and secretaries are as follow: Dayton Hollow Rural, eleven, N. E. Gray; Hoot Lake Rural, six, J. C. Eveland; Wall Lake Rural, twelve, Elmer Peterson; Horse Shoe Lake Rural, eleven, H. M. Hanson; Red River Rural, five, Helmer Kvern; Swan Lake Club, ten, (operate only in summer).

There is one unincorporated company out of Battle Lake, the Camp Corliss line, with five subscribers. Roy Corliss is secretary of this line. There are three unincorporated lines which connect at Henning: Nubbin Ridge Rural, with twenty-seven subscribers, A. T. Olson, secretary; Leaf Lake, with twelve subscribers; Henning-Leaf Lake Rural, with thirty subscribers.

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CHAPTER XXVI.

CREAMERIES OF OTTER TAIL COUNTY.

The Bluffton Co-operative Creamery Association was organized, May 31, 1906, with a capital stock of twenty-five hundred dollars, divided into one hundred shares of a par value of twenty-five dollars per share. The original incorporators were J. T. Anderson, Henry Vorderbruggen, Doran Wattrun and Paul Fisher. The first officers were James T. Anderson, president; Dorannick Wattrun, vice-president; Frederick Weichman, secretary, and Henry Vorderbruggen, treasurer. The first board of directors was composed of James T. Anderson, Henry Vorderbruggen, Paul Fisher, Lorentz Stoderl and Hobert Schwartz. During 1915 the company transacted business to the amount of fifteen thousand twenty-two dollars and thirty-three cents. The present officers include the following: C. Vorderbruggen, J. Enders, H. G. Imdieke and J. A. Otte. The directors are G. Wegscheid, J. Regan, A. Walz and H. E. Ward.

The Ottertail Farmers Creamery Company, located in the village of Ottertail, was organized on July 18, 1906. The amount of the capital stock was limited to four thousand dollars, divided into one hundred and sixty shares of twenty-five dollars each. The following is a list of the incorporators Henry Miller, Schultz Bros., E. H. Weibe, Fritz Thalman, Henry Bartels, H. Clasen, J. F. Muller, Wm. Schultz, Fritz Ehlers, Heinrich Bolland Sr., H. G. Lueders, Theodore Wegenar, Henry Thalman, Fritz Lueders, Herman Thalman, Marx Gleesing, F. L. Weibe, Herman Grefe, Henry Cordes, Heinrick Bolland Jr., Gustaf Kempf, H. Truhn, H. D. Wiebe, Wm. H. Kempf, F. H. Wiebe, H. W. Wiebe, Fritz Ohlrogge, Wm. Morrow, Dick Thalmann, John Wiebe, W. H. Rieman, Dick Grefe, William Janke, Joseph Boehl, Fred Dunker, William Guelzow and Charles Wegenar. The first officers were as follow: J. F. Muller, president; Henry Cordes, vice-president; Herman Grefe, secretary; Henry Miller, treasurer. The officers, together with William Schultz, Herman Thalmann, Wm. H. Kempf, William Janke and H. G. Lueders, constituted the first board of directors.

This company has been in business for the past decade and has enjoyed a steady growth from year to year. Its report for 1915 discloses the fact that it paid to its one hundred twenty-four patrons a total of $37,547.42 and received for butter sold $43,470.02, its total receipts for the year aggregating $45,598.24. The creamery received 416,235 pounds of butter fat, from which it made 153,868 pounds of butter. The present officers are as follow: H. A. Schultz, president; Fritz Lueders, vice-president; Henry Miller, treasurer; Herman Grefe, secretary.

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The Oak Valley Co-operative Creamery Association is located near Lyman's store on section 8, in the township of Oak Valley. It was organized on January 1, 1911, with a capital stock of four thousand dollars, divided into one hundred sixty shares of the par value of twenty-five dollars each. The incorporators were C. S. Joslin, Gottleib Menge, Gustav Schroeder, John M. Eckman, John Menge, August Wacholz, James Sinkler, Walter Gloeden, A. W. Chapman and August Griebenow. The first officers were as follow: C. S. Joslin, president; A. W. Chapman, vice-president; James Sinkler, treasurer. The officers, together with Walter Gloeden, John Menge, August Griebenow and John M. Eckman, constituted the first board of directors. The present officers are as follow: August Griebenow, president; W. W. Paskard, vice-president; G. Menge, secretary; C. S. Joslin, treasurer; Ernest Leeseberg, August Wacholz and A. Bentz.

The Elizabeth Creamery Association is located in the village of Elizabeth and was organized on February 4, 1908, with a capital stock limited to three thousand dollars, divided into sixty shares of the par value of fifty dollars per share. The first officers were as follows: P. G. Langen, president; R. E. Gardner, vice-president; F. E. Hanneman, secretary; T. F. Zimmerman, treasurer. The officers, together with A. H. Knobel and John Borch, constituted the board of directors.

This company has now been in operation for eight years, and during that time has paid out thousands of dollars to the farmers in the vicinity of Elizabeth. Its annual business now amounts to about twenty-five thousand dollars and is gradually increasing from year to year. The present officers of the company are as follow: Peter Loken, president; Henry Knobel, vice-president; O. O. Sletvold, secretary and treasurer; Robert Lill, John Fick, Fred Boese and C. O. Norgren, directors. Peter Brauch is the butter-maker of the company.

The Vining Co-operative Creamery Association was organized on January 9, 1909, for the purpose of manufacturing butter and cheese. The original stock of this corporation was two thousand three hundred dollars, divided into two hundred thirty shares at the par value of ten dollars each. The incorporators of this association are as follow: Charles Lund, J. A. Monson, Andrew Lineburg, J. S. Jacobson, Emil O. Kallak, Melvin B. Lund and John Geisness. The names of the first officers were as follow: John Geisness, president; M. B. Lund, vice-president; Charles A. Lund, secretary and treasurer. The officers, together with J. S. Jacobson, Andrew Lineburg, Emil O. Kallak and Joseph Monson, constituted the first board of directors.

The creamery opened for business on May 15, 1909, and has been in continuous operation since that time. Mr. Geisness was succeeded as presi-

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dent by J. A. Fiskum in 1911, and the latter was in turn succeeded by the present head of the company, Knute Olson. Of the original capital stock authorized by the articles of incorporation there has been one thousand nine hundred and thirty dollars paid in and, in addition, the company was given a two-thousand-dollar bonus by the merchants of Vining at the time it was organized. The first two years, the company did not show much of a profit, but since T. H. Froslee took charge of the plant in 1912 it has shown a substantial growth from year to year. Under the direction of Mr. Froslee as manager and I. O. Weik, butter-maker, the creamery has shown remarkable business progress. In January, 1912, the company showed a deficit of about nine hundred dollars, but during the past four years the company has not only paid the deficit, but has also expended more than one thousand two hundred dollars in improvements and paid its shareholders a dividend of six per cent. during the past year. The last report shows a cash surplus of three hundred and ninety-four dollars and eighty-six cents. During 1915 the creamery paid its patrons twenty-eight and six-tenths cents per pound for butter-fat.

The Richville Co-operative Creamery Company was organized, March 1, 1911, with the following incorporators: W. H. Howard, C. Nelson, B. F. Harris, J. E. Ritchey, Alois Weis, Florian Fehr and Joseph Mair. The original amount of capital stock was limited to four thousand dollars. The first officers were as follow: W. H. Howard, president; C. Nelson, vice-president; B. F. Harris, secretary; J. E. Ritchey, treasurer. The officers, together with Alois Weis, Florian Fehr and Joseph Mair, constituted the first board of directors. Immediately after its organization the company began the erection of a building suitable for the manufacture of dairy products, and it was ready for use by July 5, 1911. The present officers are as follow: V. T. Whitney, president; John C. Haggstrom, vice-president; C. F. Franz, secretary and treasurer.

The Luce Creamery Company is located in the village of Luce, Gorman township, and was organized on May 25, 1904. The original capital stock was four thousand dollars. The names of the incorporators were as follow: Carl Wessel, Joseph Reff, William Senske, Chris Flatau, Alex Eberson, Julius Flatau, Albert Weis, Carl Flatau, George Rapholtz, John Stage, Charles Flatau Jr., Theodore Flatau, George Mindermann, Mike Smithlin, Jacob Ziegler, Frank Riffer, Grant Woodard, W. H. Klug, H. Meise, C. M. Chaffie, Fred Kretchmer, Emil Huse, Joseph Hazelwander and Fred Meyer. The first board of directors were: Chris Flatau, William Senske, Jacob Ziegler, Fred Kretchmer and D. L. Durkin.

Although the company has been in operation for the past twelve years, it has not been running full capacity for the past two years. Up to 1914

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the company did business of about twelve thousand dollars. During 1915 the creamery operated only about nine months, but during that time made twenty-one thousand six hundred and seventy-six pounds of butter, which was sold for five thousand five hundred and seventy-three dollars and thirty-eight cents. The officers for the present year are as follow: Frank Pfeiffer, president; Roy Raff, secretary; Julius Flatau, Theodore Flatau, Emil Flatau, J. Blake and Henry Weihert, directors.

The Underwood Co-operative Creamery Company was organized, February 1, 1908, by Theo. Sjordal, G. K. Pederson, Ole O. Elshaug, P. K. Pederson, Olaf Quam, Oswald Ness, Knut Onstad, Ole Quam, Louis Anderson, Ole K. Wik, C. K. Pederson, Ingebrit Sande, Johannes Throndson, Hans J. Sen, Otto Schachtschneider, John Gronner, O. M. Hagen, E. O. Golberg, Lars Olsen, Gilbert H. Moen, Iver A. Bergem, C. J. Moen, P. K. Onstad, E. E. Boen, A. J. Anderson, Martin Mortenson, Osten Lofthus, Lewis Albertson, Carl H. Christensen, Knut Olsen, George F. Lee, C. L. Moe, L. P. Jensen, John E. Moe, Fred Watlow, L. Tostensen, Ole P. Jensen, John Hanson, Jens P. Berger and Hans P. Jensen. The original capital stock of this corporation was limited to eight thousand dollars, divided into three hundred twenty shares of the par value of twenty-five dollars each. One hundred fifteen shares are now owned by one hundred five shareholders. The first officers were as follow: Theodor Sjordal, president; George F. Lee, treasurer; Carl H. Christenson, secretary. The officers, together with Louis Anderson and E. E. Boen, constituted the first board of directors. During 1915 the company paid fifty-two thousand one hundred fifty-five dollars and forty-eight cents to patrons, and during the eight years the company has been in operation it has paid out a total amount of three hundred sixty-five thousand forty-four dollars and twenty-six cents to patrons. During 1915 the company had two hundred seventy-five patrons. The value of the creamery building is two thousand dollars; machinery, two thousand dollars; lot and residence, two thousand two hundred fifty dollars. The officers of the company for 1916 are as follow: C. E. Olson, president; Carl H. Christensen, secretary; Henry Robertson, treasurer; P. K. Pederson and E. E. Boen, directors. P. E. Robinson is the butter-maker and he is assisted by Edward Moe.

The Farmers Co-operative Creamery Company of Pelican Rapids was organized, February 8, 1912, with the following incorporators: Julius Holen, O. E. Moses, W. W. Sherman, P. K. Peterson, Peter Klovestad, P. G. Matson and A. J. Olson. The original amount of capital stock of this company was ten thousand dollars, divided into one thousand shares at ten dollars each. The object of this association is the buying, selling, manufacturing and dealing in milk, cream, ice-cream, cheese and butter. The first

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officers of the company were as follow: Julius Holen, president; O. E. Moses, vice-president; W. W. Sherman, secretary; P. K. Peterson, treasurer. The officers, together with Peter Klovstad, A. P. Rustad and P. G. Matson, constituted the board of directors.

This company has now been in operation four years and its growth in that time has been little short of phenomenal. A comparison of the report for the first year, ending December 31, 1912, and the fourth year, ending December 31, 1915, reveals the rapid growth of the company. At the end of the first year 244,693 pounds of cream had been received, and at the end of the fourth year the amount had increased to 883,332 pounds; the total amount of butter-fat received increased from 80,273 to 266,426 pounds; receipts from the sale of butter increased from $26,794.88 to $86,924.54; the amount paid to patrons for butter, cream and milk increased from $24,290.97 to $78,553.87. The officers of the company for 1916 are as follow: A. P. Ristad, president; Herbert Hallaway, vice-president; W. W. Sherman, secretary; Julius Holen, treasurer; P. Sorensen, managed; P. K. Peterson, Carl E. Johnson and Peter Klovstad, directors.

The Fergus Co-operative Creamery Association was organized, March 16, 1907, with the following incorporators: A. L. Whiting, L. J. Beamish, Henry Tomhave, O. E. Skindrud, W. S. Toombs, J. Buman and Ernest Trochman. The amount of the original capital stock of this corporation was limited to ten thousand dollars, divided into one thousand shares of the par value of ten dollars per share. The first officers of this corporation were as follow: A. L. Whiting, president; Ernest Trochman, vice-president; L. J. Beamish, secretary; Henry Tomhave, treasurer. The first board of directors were as follow: A. L. Whiting, L. J. Beamish, Henry Tomhave, O. E. Skindrud, W. S. Tombs, J. Bumann and Ernest Trochman. According to the articles of the incorporation the several members were to furnish all milk and cream from all the cows subscribed.

This is one of the largest creamery companies in northwestern Minnesota, and has distributed thousands of dollars to the farmers in the vicinity of the county seat. During 1915 alone the company paid out to patrons $68,078.90, and in addition declared a dividend of ten per cent. on the capital stock. During the same year the company handled 754,219 pounds of cream, from which 270,584 pounds of butter were made. The average price paid for butter-fat was thirty-one and one-fifth cents a pound. The officers for the present year include the following: E. C. Peterson, president; Fred Veit, vice-president; George H. Beamish, secretary; Henry Tomhave, treasurer; William Schoening, George Kalling and John Neuman, directors.

The Farmers Creamery Company of Deer Creek was organized, Jan-

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uary 5, 1901, with a capital stock of three thousand dollars, divided into three hundred shares of the par value of ten dollars each. The following is a list of the incorporators: A. P. Johnson, H. C. Emkee, William Rodekuhr, August Koch, Dan Anderson, G. W. Seininger, John Schiller, P. B. Anderson, John B. Olson, Swan Johnson, Fred Leeseberg, W. Gilliand, W. Fred Kruger, Henry Judson, John Johnson, A. R. Danielson, Ole Borg, Charley J. Poeter, S. N. Peterson, Robert Kruger, Henry Hanebutt, G. Glenz, E. Bartsch, C. H. Vorgerson, Nick Thielen, Frank Voge, C. J. Reinhardt and John A. Kruger. The first officers of this company were C. H. Vargason, president; A. P. Johnson, vice-president; H. C. Emkee, secretary; G. W. Seininger, treasurer. The first directors of this company were as follow: W. Rodekuhr, Swan Johnson, A. Koch, Fred Leeseberg, Daniel Anderson, W. Gilliand and Peter Anderson. The present officers are as follow: Swan Johnson, president; Carl Ohman, vice-president; W. L. Junkin, treasurer; Harriet Kobler, secretary; H. L. Kobler, manager; A. P. Johnson, William Rodekuhr, A. H. Knoble, John Johnson, Ole Berg and A. R. Danielson, directors.

The Battle Lake Co-operative Creamery Association was organized, April 2, 1907, with a capital stock of five thousand dollars, to be divided into two hundred shares of twenty-five dollars each. The original incorporators of this association were Hans Gilbertson, E. B. French, John H. Larsen, Ole Rolandson, Jacob Larsen, Andrew Vennerstrom and Ole J. Widness, the incorporators also constituting the first board of managers. The first officers were: Hans Gilbertson, president; E. B. French, vice-president; Andrew Vennerstrom, secretary and treasurer. The company was organized for the manufacture of butter and cheese from whole milk or cream.

The company has had a prosperous career from the beginning and during the year 1915 paid out $21,078.20 to the farmers in the community. This represents an average yearly disbursement to the patrons. The company has recently made improvements in its factory in the way of installing new machinery, putting in cement floors, etc., to the amount of eight hundred dollars. The officers of the creamery for the current year are as follow: Nels Hustad, president; Carl Gilbertson, vice-president; Andrew Vennerstrom, secretary and manager; J. H. Larson, Jacob Larson and E. K. Evenson, directors.

In addition to the creameries given above, there are a number which have not responded to requests for information. The information concerning these creameries is limited to that which has been gleaned from the incorporation articles recorded in the office of the register of deeds, and deals solely with the organization of the company or association.

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The Henning Creamery Association is located at the village of Henning, and was organized, June 7, 1901, with the following incorporators: George Paulson, E. Theodore Dillner, A. S. Paulson, W. H. Hipple, Diedrich True, Iver Bondy, Ole Torkelson, J. M. Hursh, Alfred Knutson, Anton Thompson, H. H. Brutlag, O. S. Johnson, A. T. Nelson, Mathew Larson, John Hanson, S. A. Winnegar and Edward Parks. The amount of capital stock of this corporation was three thousand dollars. The names of the first officers were as follow: S. A. Winnegar, president; Alfred Knutson, vice-president; E. Theo Dillner, secretary; W. H. Hipple, treasurer; and J. M. Hurch, George A. Paulson and A. T. Nelson, directors. This corporation was organized for the purpose of manufacturing butter and the buying and selling of cream.

The Farmers Co-operative Creamery Company is located in Rothsay and was organized, September 28, 1907, with the following incorporators: Albert Korth, K. K. Peterson, O. K. Aaberg, Theo Stras, Casper Rudh, George Nelson, Ole Hanson and Jacob Amundson. The capital stock of this corporation was ten thousand dollars. The first officers of this company were: Albert Korth, president; O. K. Aaberg, vice-president; K. K. Peterson, secretary and treasurer. The officers, together with Theo. Stras, Casper Rudh, Ole Hanson and William Maack, constituted the first board of directors.

The New York Mills Creamery Association is located in the township of Newton, and was organized on March 1, 1911, with the following incorporators: S. J. Haarala, Israel Hazel, Jacob Ojala, Jacob Belds, E. A. Rousu, John P. Aarni, Mats Niemela, Matt Jaakola, Matt Lohi, Henry Blomberg and Abe Johnson. The amount of the capital stock of this corporation was limited to three thousand dollars. The object of this association is the constructing and maintaining of one or more creameries, the manufacture and sale of dairy products and the purchase and sale of all property required to successfully operate a creamery. The first officers of this association were as follow: Israel Hazel, president; Jacob Ojala, vice-president; S. J. Haarala, secretary; Jacob Pelto, treasurer. The officers, together with Matti Niemela, E. Aug. Rousu and John P. Aarni, constituted the first board of directors.

The Perham Co-operative Creamery Association was organized June 8, 1912, with a capital stock of five thousand dollars, divided into two hundred shares of twenty-five dollars each. The names of the persons forming this co-operative association were as follow: Jacob Jung, F. S. Sieling, John Stege, F. G. Wasche, James L. Daiker, Edward Lehmkuhl and Jacob Ziegler. The names of the first officers and board of directors were as fol-

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low: Jacob Jung, president; F. D. Sieling, vice-president; John Stege, secretary; F. G. Wasche, treasurer; Jacob Ziegler, Joseph L. Daiker and Edward Lehmkuhl, directors.

The Vergas Creamery Company was organized on May 17, 1909, for the purpose of manufacturing butter and cheese of whole milk and cream. The amount of capital stock was four thousand dollars, divided into one hundred and sixty shares of twenty-five dollars each. The management of the affairs of this association was vested in a board of seven directors, of which board the president and treasurer of the association were to be members. The first board of directors were as follow: Ernest Lueberman, Ernest Ebbersviller, Rudolph Nester, Henry Antonsen, Frank Hinze, Adolph Bunkowske and John Kraus.

The Erhard Creamery Association is located in sections 28-21, township 135, range 43, and was organized, April 6, 1908, with the following incorporators: C. Kettleson, A. L. Pearson, A. Fogelberg, Adolph Hanson, Anton Wahl, Albin Johnson, Ole Nodsle, Aug. Grunewald, Ole E. Granude, Alex Sha, Gustave Formo, J. S. Johnson, Ed. Bristile, C. L. Swanson, Martin Nelson, Mrs. S. O. Sleen, Charles Scheer, Ole Helgeson, L. J. Rasmusson, Gus Mahlert, And Formo, Swen Olson, A. Rudshagen, B. Wesbrod, Harold Ouren, Nels Schalstad, Fred Brandt and William Tobaben. The capital stock of this association was three thousand dollars. The first officers of this corporation were, John Kawalski, president; Edward Bristle, vice-president; J. S. Sammons, secretary; Alex Sha, treasurer. The officers, with E. E. Carlson, Ole E. Granrud and William Tobaben, constituted the first board of directors.

The Dalton Creamery Company is located in the village of Dalton and was organized on July 1, 1893, with a capital stock which was not to exceed ten thousand dollars, divided into shares of two dollars each. The following persons were the first officers: K. H. Brandvold, president; Lars Nelson, vice-president; Ole N. Fossen, secretary; Amund K. Berg, treasurer; Johan Hoff, A. B. Larson, Johan Aker, L. A. Rustad and Anders J. Stortroen, directors.

The Dopelius Creamery Association is located in section 25, township 135, range 37 and was organized July 1, 1907, with a capital stock of four thousand five hundred dollars. The following persons formed the association: J. H. Muckala, William Puranen, Gust A. Ruikka, Adolph Ruikka, John Wiitamaski, Matt Hill, Mike Hendrikson, Andrew Lind and R. D. Pier. The first officers were as follow: John H. Muckala, president; Andrew Lind, secretary; Matt Hill, treasurer. The officers together with William Puranen, Gust A. Ruikka, Roy D. Pier and Mike Henderson constituted the first board of directors.

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The Dalton Co-operative Creamery Company is located at the village of Dalton and was organized on May 26, 1906, with a capital stock of four thousand dollars. The incorporators were as follow: Ole O. Sageng, S. M. Skrove, N. E. Thormondson, P. C. Svendsrud, K. H. Brandvold, Jens Torgerson, N. H. Nelson, O. A. Rustad, Oscar T. Hoff, Andrew H. Berget, John L. Faushaug, Nels Huse, E. L. Kvernstoen, Ole E. Hagen, Ole A. Aarness, John T. Hoff, K. N. Sonmor, Elias Erickson, H. O. Christenson, N. B. Anderson, Ludvig Madson, John T. Thompson, Ole Erickson, E. J. Sonmor, Martin N. Rovang, J. Simonson, Ole N. Fossan, Tobias J. Grue, Ole H. Sageng, John Stangvik and Edward M. Minge. The government of this corporation and the management of its affairs was vested in a board of managers consisting of the president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer and three directors. The first officers were as follow: N. E. Thormondson, president; Ole O. Sageng, vice-president; O. I. Brandvold, secretary; S. M. Skrove, treasurer, and the directors, Oscar T. Hoff, Ole N. Fossèn and P. C. Svendsrud.

The Clover Leaf Creamery Company is located in Newton township and was organized January 1, 1907, with a capital stock of two thousand dollars. The original incorporators of this association were Adolph Anderson, Petter Raattama, Henry Anderson, Jacob Heitala, John Sume, Charles J. Palo, Oscar Hitt, Thomas Salo, Henry Hentila, Matti Hentila, Abraham S. Mattson, O. B. Hill, J. J. Walima and John Kela. Its first directors were Henry Anderson, Charles Palo, John Sumi, Jacob Hietala, Peter Raattama, Adolph Anderson and Oscar Hill. The first officers were as follow: Henry Anderson, president; Peter Raattama, vice-president; Adolf Anderson, secretary; Jacob Hietala, treasurer.

The Amor Cheese Factory Association was incorporated May 10, 1902. Its factory was situated in section 4, of the township of Amor. The following is a list of the original incorporators: Andrew Murk, J. N. Davis, O. L. Young, Christopher Bjorgaard, T. K. Johnson, H. B. Johnson, J. E. Ritchey, F. O. Ward and C. A. Nystrom. The first officers were, O. L. Young, president; F. O. Ward, vice-president; Christopher Bjorgaard, secretary; T. K. Johnson, treasurer; Carl Nystrom, J. Ritchey and C. Bjorgaard, trustees. The original price paid for the making of cheese was two cents and one-half cent from patrons living over four miles distant from the factory. The several members of the association agreed to furnish all their milk to the factory and this was to be fresh, unadulterated and unskimmed. Patrons of the association, but not members, were allowed to make an agreement with the board of trustees to furnish such amount of milk as might be mutually agreed upon.

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CHAPTER XXVII.

MILITARY AFFAIRS.

Otter Tail county was not formally organized until after the close of the Civil War, and consequently did not contribute any soldiers to that memorable conflict, although it appears that the county was listed for the draft. It is true that there were a few people living in the county prior to the Indian massacre of 1862, but as far as is known, this county is credited with no enlistments, either by volunteers or draft. As has been mentioned in another place in this volume, Major George B. Clitherall, the register of the land office at Otter Tail City, was from Alabama, and, upon the opening of the war, returned to his native state. It is probable that a few others accompanied him from this county, but of this there is no positive evidence.

If it is true that Otter Tail county furnished no men for the Civil War, it is certain that large numbers of men who fought in that struggle came to the county after the war was over. The Grand Army of the Republic at Fergus Falls has enrolled a total of two hundred and sixty-four veterans of the Civil War, and it is probably safe to say that there have been at least a thousand men who saw service in the Union army who have been residents of this county. These men are fast answering the last roll call, and the once flourishing post at Fergus Falls now has only about a score left. Year by year sees a decreased membership, and within the next decade there will be scarcely a one left.

The Spanish-American War is the only one which has occurred within the history of Otter Tail county in which its sons have been able to participate. Fergus Falls sent a company, but, like all the other companies from this state, it did not reach the scene of war, not getting any closer to Cuba than Chattanooga. Consequently, the military history of Otter Tail county resolves itself into the history of the different military organizations which have been founded as a result of the different wars of the United States. It seems appropriate to mention first the one organization of the county which finds its basis in the Revolutionary War. This organization, the Daughters of the American Revolution, has been in existence in Fergus Falls for more than seventeen years. Its membership is restricted to those whose ancestors participated in the struggle for independence.

DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION.

The patriotic order known as the Daughters of the American Revolution was organized in Washington, D. C., October 11, 1890. Its present membership is over one hundred thousand, with local chapters in every state in the United States, in Cuba, China, Mexico and the Philippines—about fifteen hundred local chapters in all. The object of the society is to pre-

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serve and perpetuate the memory and deeds of the patriots of the Revolution; to locate and establish memorials of historic places; to teach patriotism and inspire reverence and respect for the flag. The headquarters of the society is in Washington, where they have a magnificent building, called the Continental Hall.

The eligibility requirements for membership in this society are very strict, and applications must be specific and authentic as to ancestral history in order to pass the censorship of the official critic. The regulations provide that "any woman of the age of eighteen years, who descended from an ancestor, who, with 'unfailing loyalty' rendered material aid to the cause of Independence as a recognized patriot, as soldier or sailor, or as a civil officer in one of the several colonies or states," is eligible to membership. These facts must be established by documentary or other authentic evidence. Traditional evidence is not accepted by the censor who passes on the applications.

Fergus Falls Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, was organized on January 30, 1899, with ten charter members, namely: Mrs. Josephine Gilbert Barrows, Mrs. Mary Mygatt Brown, Mrs. Alice Hixson Billings, Mrs. Mary Underwood Gray, Mrs. Helen Orr Hixson, Elma L. Hixson, Mrs. Anna M. McMahon, Janet Huntoon, Elizabeth Underwood and Sallie Warfield.

The first officers were: Mrs. Mary Mygatt Brown, regent; Mrs. Josephine Barrows, registrar; Mrs. Anna McMahon, treasurer; Miss Sallie Warfield, secretary. The present officers are: Mrs. Effie Wescott Cole, regent; Mrs. Katherine Hill Ulland, vice-regent; Mrs. Helen Orr Hixson, recording secretary; Mrs. Kate Shonts Eriksson, corresponding secretary; Mrs. Anna Vanderzee Lake, treasurer; Mrs. Mary Underwood Gray, registrar. Those who have served as regents since the organization follow: Mrs. Mary Mygatt Brown, Mrs. Mary McLean Barrows, Mrs. Emma Clement Shonts, Mrs. Helen Orr Hixson, Mrs. Alice Hixson Billings, Mrs. Effie Westcott Cole, Mrs. Josephine Gilbert Barrows, Mrs. Mary Underwood Grey; Mrs. Anna Vanderzee Lake, Mrs. Mary Fuller Wright, Mrs. Lillian Stringham Mason, Mrs. Kate Shonts Eriksson, Mrs. Katherine Ulland.

Following is a complete list of members of the Fergus Falls Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, and the name of the ancestor through whom eligibility to membership is established:

Mae Mygatt Brown (J. A.), descendant of Eli Mygatt, Danbury, Connecticut.

Josephine Gilbert Barrows (F. G.), descendant of Isaac Gilbert, New Haven, Connecticut.

Mary McLane Parsons (W. L.), descendant of Joseph Young, of Cumberland county, Pennsylvania.

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Janet Whitcomb Huntoon, descendant of James Billings, Connecticut.

Emma Clement Shonts (J. G.), descendant of Col. Jabez Mathews, of Frainingham, Massachusetts.

Lillian Stringham Mason (Cahrles), descendant of Samuel Slocum, of Dartsmouth, Massachusetts.

Kate Shonts Eriksson (Leonard), descendant of James Wigart, of New Jersey.

Helen Orr Hixon (Daniel), descendant of John Orr, of Bedford, New Hampshire.

Elma Hixon Benton, descendant of John Orr, of Bedford, New Hampshire.

Capitola Hixon Billings, descendant of John Orr, of Bedford, New Hampshire.

Anna McMahon (M. T.), descendant of Allen Breed, of Lynnfield, Massachusetts.

Miss Elizabeth Underwood, descendant of Emanuel Hover, of Sussex county, New Jersey.

Sallie Warfield Greenwell (J. W.), descendant of Elisha Warfield, of Maryland.

Mary Underwood Gray (F. H.), descendant of Emanuel Hover, of Sussex county, New Jersey.

Izora Brown (B. F.), descendant of John March, Jr., of Bellinham, Massachusetts.

Effie Westcott Cole (A. B.), descendant of Thomas Tanner, Jr., of Cornwall, Connecticut.

Myra Fuller Wright (C. J.), descendant of Capt. Abraham Fuller, of New York.

Fanny Lincoln Tallmadge (George C.), descendant of Lathrop Davis, of Lebanon, Connecticut.

Miss Ruth Lincoln, descendant of Lathrop Davis of Lebanon, Connecticut.

Miss Elizabeth Davis, descendant of Lathrop Davis, of Lebanon, Connecticut.

Malie Alice King (Doctor), descendant of Abraham Van Denson, of Montgomery county, New York.

Anna E. Lake (F. H.), descendant of Cornelius Vandeizee, of Bethlehem, New York.

Myrtle Jane Lund Diffendorf (P. O.), descendant of Roswell Goodrich, of Wethersfield, Connecticut.

Kate Hill Ulland (O. F.) descendant of John M. La Strange, of New York.

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Fanny Cowles Adams (E. E.), descendant of Samuel Cowles, of Norfolk, Connecticut.

Alice Josephine Buck Wheelock (H. W.), descendant of Rev. Daniel Buck, of New Milford, Connecticut.

Emma Child Baxter (L. L.), descendant of Capt. Abijah Child, of Massachusetts.

GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC.

When the Civil War closed and the soldiers who fought the battles of the Union returned to their homes to resume their place as citizens of a republic that had been saved by their valor, they laid aside their implements of war and engaged in vocations of peace. While rejoicing in victory and peace, the disbanding of the army was not without a feeling of regret on the part of the soldiers, because of the separation of comrades and the severing of ties that had been welded in the fire of battle. This feeling found expression in the formation of company and regimental associations, and in various organizations of soldiers in the early years following the close of the war. Out of the pleasure and experience of renewed comradeship found in these occasional reunions was conceived the idea of an established national organization of soldiers of the Civil War, an organization that became known as the Grand Army of the Republic, the greatest semi-military organization the world has ever known.

As a fraternity, the Grand Army of the Republic differs from all other fraternities. It is a fraternity born of war and yet a child of peace. Engendered amid scenes of trial and danger, it has been fostered, nourished and kept alive for a period now of almost fifty years by one of the most tender and loving comradeships of which the world has knowledge. It is fraternity made up of kind words, and kindly acts of friendships which are honest and true. It is a fraternity into which no recruits can come; it cannot be perpetuated. Its inevitable end will come when the last of its members shall have "passed the lonely way."

The Grand Army is represented by posts and departments in every state in the Union. The local post in Fergus Falls is known as Stanton Post No. 33, Department of Minnesota, Grand Army of the Republic. It was organized, June 15, 1883, by the chief mustering officer of the Department of Minnesota of that year, Charles Harrington. The following were charter members: Louis Hansen, R. W. Arnold, H. W. W. Woodworth, H. B. Fay, Henry Burdoff, Wright Works, Justus Pickit, C. P. Austin, Edward Pilbeam, K. W. Titus, Henry Earl, E. A. Marshall, Lyman Spaulding, D. R. Greenlee, W. W. Hollingsworth, E. E. Corliss, James Compton, R. N. Adams, C. H. Goodsell, J. T. Bean, E. L. Olden, L. J. Morrill, W. H. Smith, Lewis H. Johnson, N. A. Files, E. V. Comstock, B. F. Conradt, B. D. Catlin, W. C. Lincoln, D. Ansinger, H. C. Whiting, Charles E. Hurd,

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Allen M. Bugbee, J. Hardy, O. C. Chase, G. H. Holden and George F. Cowing.

The first officers were: G. H. Holden, post commander; James Compton, senior-vice commander; D. R. Greenlee, surgeon; H. C. Whiting, officer of the guard; R. W. Arnold, chaplain; James Compton, quartermaster; W. C. Lincoln, adjutant; Justus Pickit, sergeant-major; J. Hardee, quartermaster-sergeant.

The following have held the position of post commander since the organization: James Compton, O. C. Chase, C. W. McKay, A. M. Battleson, E. E. Corliss, P. Winson, F. J. Titus, George E. Burbank, W. G. Hunt, J. G. Durrell, W. H. McBride, I. J. Brown, W. N. Chapman, W. P. Culuert, George F. Cowing, E. Shaner, O. S. Smeet, J. A. McConkey, J. R. Langley, Charles Goodsell, James B. Auxer, W. C. Lincoln and J. Neibels.

The post is named in honor of Edwin M. Stanton, who, as President Lincoln's secretary of war, rendered invaluable service in the cause of the Union during the Civil War. Since its organization two hundred and sixty-four have been enrolled as members of the post. The present membership is twenty-five. The decrease is due to deaths and the removal of many to other localities.

WOMAN'S RELIEF CORPS.

The Woman's Relief Corps is an organization of loyal women whose special mission is to aid needy soldiers of the Civil War and the widows and orphans of those deceased. It was organized as an auxiliary to the Grand Army of the Republic. The national organization was established in 1886, by authority of the national encampment of the Grand Army, and under the direction of the commander-in-chief of the order at that time. The subordinate divisions are the state departments, in each state, and the local corps that are connected with the Grand Army posts. Since the organization the Woman's Relief Corps has grown to a large and influential body of patriotic women, and has raised and distributed thousands of dollars for the relief of those who are its beneficiaries. Unlike the Grand Army the Woman's Relief Corps has an unlimited field from which to enlist recruits; its membership is increasing, while that of the Grand Army is steadily decreasing.

The Fergus Falls organization is known as the Stanton Woman's Relief Corps No. 72, auxiliary to the local Grand Army post. This corps was organized on February 26, 1896, with the following charter members: Emma Baxter, Elizabeth Corliss, Delia Chase, Esther Winsor, Catherine Colvert, Alice Smith, Kitty Hastings, Maria Cooper, Emma Gray, Elizabeth McKay, Blanche Hurd, Sarah Balfour, Dorcas Evans, Maria Kissinger, Augusta Neibels, Ida Hoefling, Francis Battleson, Elizabeth Lent, Cornelia Titus, Susie Hunt, Margaret Chapman, Susie Alds, Jennie Rose, Lida Bliss.

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Maranda Burbank, Nancy Underwood, Ella Abert, Anna Smith, Arma Hoefling, Lillian Morrill, Balle Langley, Elma Hixon, Capitola Hixon and Ida Kennedy.

The first officers were as follow: Emma Baxter, president; Elizabeth Corliss, senior vice-president; Elizabeth McKay, junior vice-president; Ida Kennedy, secretary; Emma G. Gray, treasurer; Esther Winsor, chaplain; Margaret Chapman, conductor; Augusta Neibels, guard; Elma Hixon, assistant conductor; Delia Chase, assistant guard. The present officers are as follow: Etta Miller, president; Mary Wilson, senior vice-president; Harriet Wade, junior vice-president; Nellie Hart, secretary; Nellie Gunerius, treasurer; Amanda Butler, chaplain; Augusta Neibels, conductor; Inez Thomas, guard; Delia Chase, assistant conductor; Nellie Salvage, assistant guard; Theresa Fellows, first color guard; Anna Adair, second color guard; Mattie Whiting, third color guard; Edith Woodworth, fourth color guard. The following have served as president of the corps since its organization: Emma Baxter, 1896-97; Elizabeth Corliss, 1898-99; Margaret Chapman, 1900-01; Ida Hoefling, 1901-02; Amanda Butler, 1903; Delia Chase, 1904-05; Amelia McBride, 1906-07; Elida Carlson, 1908; Susie Hunt, 1909; Etta Miller, 1910-16. The present membership of the corps is one hundred and twenty-four.

OTTER TAIL COUNTY IN THE SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR.

The only men from Otter Tail county to enlist as representatives of the county in any war were mustered into service for the Spanish-American War. The organization of a company in Fergus Falls for that war was completed April 28, 1898, the company being mustered in as Company F. The officers of the company were C. L. Baxter, captain; Charles D. Danstrom, first lieutenant; A. C. Jessen, second lieutenant. The non-commissioned officers were, M. P. Meigs, first sergeant; Andrew Scellum, Al. Kidder, George Beardsley, duty sergeants; Guy Hurd, A. Phelps, A. Wessberg, N. E. Nelson and P. J. Barbau, corporals.

The company was ordered to report at St. Paul, Friday, April 27, 1898, and left Fergus Falls one hundred strong on the evening of that date. Prior to its departure the citizens manifested their good will and best wishes by raising a subscription for a handsome company flag. The presentation speech was made by C. C. Houpt. Captain Baxter responded on behalf of the company. This company went into the organization camp at St. Paul and became a part of the Fourteenth Regiment of Minnesota Infantry. After remaining in St. Paul for a few weeks, the regiment was sent to Chattanooga and later went into camp at Chickamauga. This company did not get into any active service remaining in this camp until the close of the war. On their return home, October 1, 1898, they were tendered a grand reception by the citizens of Fergus Falls.

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CHAPTER XXVIII.

POSTAL HISTORY.

FERGUS FALLS POSTOFFICE.

The first postmaster in Fergus Falls was Henry Hanigsen and the establishment of the office seems to have been brought about through the influence of Ole Jorgens. Mr. Jorgens, in his reminiscences, says that he and his neighbors in Aurdal and Fergus Falls townships sent a petition in the summer of 1870 to the postoffice department at Washington asking for a mail route from Pomme de Terre to Fergus Falls, and for postoffices at Wall Lake, St. Olaf and Fergus Falls. Mr. Jorgens found, in the spring of 1870, that there was no postoffice at all in the western part of the county, and, as he says, there was none closer to his home at Wall Lake than Clitherall or Evansville, Douglas county. It is for this reason that he interested himself in getting these three postoffices established. According to Mr. Jorgens he secured the location of the three postoffices which he had suggested should be established, and Henry Hanigsen (the official record gives his name as Heinrich Haingsen) was appointed on July 6, 1870, as the first postmaster of Fergus Falls. The mail for the village was brought from Pomme de Terre once a week, Peter Frones, an old soldier and sailor, being the first carrier. It is reported that for a time he walked the entire distance between Pomme de Terre and Fergus Falls, carrying the mail on his back, but later made the trip in a two-wheeled cart. Mr. Jorgens made out the first monthly report of Hanigsen to the postoffice department at Washington.

The first postoffice in the village was located in a log building on Mill street just back of the present First National Bank building. The first postmaster was a German, and there are those still living in Fergus Falls who in a facetious way, claim that he could not read English, and that thus handicapped, he had to resort to a unique method of distributing the mail. Boxes for individual patrons were then unknown. Everyone in the community knew that the weekly mail was expected on Friday afternoon and some member of each family arranged to be present at the postoffice that afternoon to get the family mail. Upon receipt of the pouch bearing the mail, the postmaster walked to the middle of the room, carefully unlocked the pouch, turned the bag upside down and emptied its contents in the middle of the floor. This performance would be followed by an invitation to the crowd on the outside to come in and look through the pile for their mail.

The growth of the postoffice in Fergus Falls from 1870 to 1916 illu-

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strates in a striking way the development of the little village into the metropolis of this section of the state. Whereas, one man handled all of the business in 1870, and for some years following that time, it now requires no less than thirty-one employees to do the work connected with the postoffice. The postmaster now has one chief assistant, seven clerks, four city carriers, ten rural carriers and two janitors to assist him and additional help is now needed to handle the business. In addition there is one substitute clerk and four substitute city carriers, these four substitutes working two hours each day. Each rural carrier also has a substitute, but these in most cases are employed only during the fifteen day vacation period allowed each employee of the postoffice. The oldest clerk in point of continuous service is J. P. Nelson, who has been with the office since October 1, 1900.

Some of the landmarks in the history of the local postoffice are as follow: October 1, 1900, city free delivery service established with three carriers; December 16, 1901, a fourth carrier added to the city delivery; February 1, 1904, five rural routes established out of Fergus Falls; August 5, 1905, three additional rural carriers allowed Fergus Falls; August 15, 1906, county rural service established, and at the same time two more carriers added to the rural service out of Fergus Falls; August 22, 1911, postal savings department established; January 1, 1913, parcel post system inaugurated. The postoffice was raised from the third to the second class in the nineties, the change taking place when the annual receipts reached eight thousand dollars. The change brought all of the employees of the postoffice, except the postmaster, under the civil service. Before that time the postmaster appointed all of his subordinates. The postal receipts have been increasing so rapidly during the past few years that the postoffice will undoubtedly be raised to the rank of a first-class office within the next two years. This will take place as soon as the receipts amount to forty thousand dollars a year.

The present beautiful postoffice building was erected in 1903-04 and occupied for the first time May 15, 1904, during the incumbency of B. D. Underwood. One hundred and twenty-five thousand dollars was appropriated for the site and building, but the whole amount was not used. The contract for the building was let to John Lauritzen, a local contractor, the total cost of the site and building amounting to one hundred and eleven thousand. The selection of the site arrayed the whole city into two rival camps, each side intent upon locating the new building upon the site of their choice. It is not necessary in this connection to go into a discussion of the merits and demerits of the two sites at first proposed by the two rival factions, the Nangle corner and the Hoyt corner. It is sufficient to state that neither corner got it, but that as a compromise, and to prevent an insurrection.

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another site was chosen. Something of the maneuvering incident to the locating of the site is told by the Hon. E. E. Corliss in his reminsciences. The building not only contains the postoffice department, but also a courtroom and offices for the district attorney, district clerk, United States marshals, witness and jury rooms, filing rooms, and a temporary lockup for federal prisoners awaiting trial.

The selection of postmasters in Fergus Falls has engaged the attention of politicians here as well as elsewhere in the United States. The next postmaster in the city knows that his position will depend upon whether the state of New York will go Republican or Democratic. To follow the history of each postmaster and the incidents surrounding his appointment would far transcend the limits of this article. In fact a volume might be written about the postmasters and those who wished to be postmasters, the major portion of the volume naturally being about the latter group. There have been seven postmasters since 1870, four Republicans and three Democrats. The Republicans have been, Henry Henigsen (1870-71), George Nichols (1871-88), Justus Pickit (1894-97) and B. D. Underwood (1900-14). The Democrats have been Horace Pickit (1888-94), Jesse Billings (1897-1900) and the present incumbent, Harry M. Wheelock, from June 16, 1914. Probably the most noted fight for the office was staged when Justus Pickit won the appointment from B. N. Johnson. The newspapers of that day give only a faint indication of the surplusage of adjectives which were wasted before Pickit was finally appointed. Jesse Billings was a Democrat but appointed by a Republican president, a fact due to his wonderful popularity with the citizens of the city and his activity against Bryan in 1896. The postmasters of this city have had various occupations; merchants, druggists, tailors and newspaper men have filled the official chair, and it is claimed that one incumbent of the office devoted his talents to the exciting if not remunerative vocation of checker playing.

In the early days the office was not sufficiently compensating to make it self-sustaining and the postmaster had to eke out his living by doing something else—the something usually being merchandising. The first postmaster to devote most of his time and attention to the office was George L. Nichols, who was appointed December 5, 1871, but he also engaged in merchandizing. The postmaster of today receives an annual salary of twenty-eight hundred dollars, and the janitor of the building receives a much larger yearly income than did the postmasters of the seventies. The postmaster of two score years ago was on duty from ten to fifteen hours a day, while at the present time the postmaster and all of his subordinates work only eight hours a day.

As has been stated before, the first postoffice was located in a log building which stood to the rear of the present First National Bank building.

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It remained there until 1871 or 1872, when it was moved to the drug store of Nichols & Dearborn on Lincoln avenue (lot 10, block 20), in the same building occupied by C. J. Hanson as a harness shop. George L. Nichols, who was postmaster for seventeen years (1871-88), divided his attention between the drug business and the postoffice. While he was postmaster he moved the office to the dry goods store of Harrison & Beare, a brick building on Court street, standing on the north bank of Red river, where the Fergus Auto Garage is now located. The postoffice remained there until April 1, 1881, when it was moved to the new store-room of J. H. DeParoq, which was leased for one year beginning April 1, 1881. This building stood on Mill street and will be remembered as standing to the rear of the present First National Bank building and adjoining Mrs. Burbank's millinery store. Shortly afterwards the present building of the First National Bank was erected and the postoffice was then moved into the rear room of this building, the same now occupied by C. D. Baker. It remained here until May 15, 1904, when it was taken to the present beautiful building on south Mill street, the first government building to be erected in the city.

POSTOFFICES OF OTTER TAIL COUNTY.

The first regular mail service in Otter Tail county was established in the summer of 1869. On the 4th of July the first star route mail carrier came to Parkers Prairie with the first sack of mail which was ever brought into the county. G. A. Linquist, former county treasurer and now a resident of Fergus Falls, acted as guide for the carrier from Parkers Prairie to Otter Tail City. Until the early part of the seventies the county only had weekly service but with the building of the Northern Pacific through the county daily service was inaugurated for at least part of the county. It was some time after this before Fergus Falls had daily service. For a time the county seat received mail by stage from Crampton on the west and Wadena on the east. Daily service was not established in Fergus Falls until the Great Northern reached it in 1879.

Gradually the county was covered with star routes and before the end of the seventies there was more than a score of postoffices scattered over the county. As fast as the townships were organized postoffices were established in the most thickly settled communities although the great majority of these received mail only once a week. The number of postoffices kept increasing from year to year until the inauguration of the rural free delivery system in 1904, at which time there were sixty-eight postoffices in the county. The list for 1904 follows: Amor, Arthur, Aurdal, Axel, Balmoral, Basswood, Battle Lake, Bessie, Blowers, Bluffton, Butler, Carlisle, Center Grove, Clitherall, Dalton, Davies, Deer Creek, Dent, Dopelius, Dora, Edwards, Effington, Elizabeth, Erhard, Faust, Fergus Falls, French, Gresham,

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Henning, Joy, Joyce, Leaf Mountain, Lida, Luce, Lyman, Maine, Mill Park, New York Mills, Norwegian Grove, Oscar, Otter Tail, Paddock, Parkers Prairie, Pelican Lake, Pelican Rapids, Perham, Phelps, Redington, Richdale, Roberts, Rumsey, St. Lawrence, St. Olaf, Spirit Lake, Squier, Star Lake, Stod, Sverre, Tordenskjold, Underwood, Vida, Vining, Wall Lake, Weggeland, Western, Woodland, Worden and Wrightstown.

In addition to these sixty-eight postoffices, just enumerated, there have been postoffices at the following places, all of which are now discontinued: Amboy, Ames, Dopelius, Bangor, Essex, Boardman, Hoff, Lake Sybil, Red Eye, Turtle Lake, Inman, Parkdale, Friberg and Aastad. Since 1904 there have been three postoffices established, Almora, Hill view and Vergas, the latter being formerly known as Altona. Hillview was discontinued in 1915. This gives a total of eighty-four postoffices which have been established in Otter Tail county since its existence, and since there are only twenty-four active at the present time it follows that sixty postoffices have been discontinued. Forty-three offices were discontinued between 1904 and 1906. The list of the present postoffices of the county, together with the postmasters' salaries and number of rural routes from each office, is as follow:

Following are the present postoffices in Otter Tail county, together with the salary received by the postmaster and the number of rural delivery routes maintained from each office:

PRESENT POSTOFFICES IN OTTER TAIL COUNTY.

Almora, $110; Battle Lake, $1,400, three; Bluffton, $320; Butler, $190; Carlisle, $90; Clitherall, $720, two; Dalton, $640, three; Deer Creek, $660, two; Dent, $790; Elizabeth, $440, one; Erhard, $780, two; Fergus Falls, $2,800, ten; Henning, $1,200, four; Luce, $150; New York Mills, $1,400, four; Ottertail, $450, two; Parkers Prairie, $1,300, six; Pelican Rapids, $1,600, six; Perham, $1,600, four; Richdale, $40; Richville, $560, one; Underwood, $840, three; Vergas, $840, two; Vining, $490, two.

The county rural free delivery (established August 15, 1906), makes it possible for daily mail to reach every farmer in the county and practically everyone receives his mail through the service. There are a total of fifty-seven rural routes in the county, the length of the routes ranging from 17.7 to 31.7 miles. Most of these carriers use horses, although a number of them make use of automobiles or motorcycles when the roads will permit. The rural carriers receive a uniform salary of twelve hundred dollars a year and have a vacation of fifteen days on full pay. It should be mentioned that there is still left one star route in the county, the one running from Rothsay to Pelican Rapids. The carrier on this route makes one trip a day and is required by law to distribute mail to those persons who live on the route he traverses.

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CHAPTER XXIX.

THE CITY OF FERGUS FALLS.

Shakespeare said, "What's in a name? That which we call a rose, by any other name would smell as sweet." As a theory in botanical lore this may be true but common usage has associated the name with the odor and it would be difficult to persuade the common mind to accept the theory. In other words, there is something in a name, if the name is appropriate to the object and is happily applied. Whether the founders of Fergus Falls had this thought in mind and gave due consideration to the sentiment or not, it is certain that they made no mistake when they gave to the primitive village on the Red river rapids the name it now bears. The name and the location is a significant combination, happily applied; it gives due honor to a pioneer and preserves a history that is worthy of perpetuation.

JAMES FERGUS.

James Fergus, after whom the pioneer village was named, was a Scotchman, born in the parish of Glassford, Lanarkshire, Scotland, October 8, 1813. His parents were prosperous farmers and gave him a good education, along with excellent moral and religious training. In his youth he was noted for his thoroughness in whatever work he engaged; he was especially fond of reading good books. At the age of nineteen he came to America with the idea of improving his fortunes. He located in Canada at first, where he spent three years and learned the trade of millwright. Becoming involved in some political troubles, just before the outbreak of the Papineau rebellion, he left Canada for the United States. For two or three years after coming to the United States he spent a kind of roving life, spending some time in Green Bay and Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and at Buffalo Grove and Chicago, Illinois. He finally landed at Moline, Illinois, where he found employment in the foundry and machine shops of Buford, Sears & Wheelock. In 1854 he removed to Little Falls, Minnesota, and, in company with C. A. Tuttle, built a dam across the Mississippi and platted a village. Here he remained for two or three years. During the townsite speculation fever, in the winter of 1856 and 1857, Joseph Whitford, a blacksmith and steamboat engineer, a natural frontiersman, possessed of uncommon courage, energy and prudence, proposed to go out and take up a townsite at what was known as Graham's Point, on the Red river. Mr. Fergus furnished the necessary outfit for this expedition. Procuring a dog train and a half-breed guide, Whitford went to Graham's Point and staked out a town. On their way back, at Red river, an Indian family told them of a better place

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for a town, twenty miles distant. Leaving his half-breed to recruit, Whitford took an Indian as a guide and went to the place designated and staked off what is now Fergus Falls, the name being given by the exploring party in honor of the man who had furnished the outfit for the expedition. Mr. Fergus himself never visited the place.

In 1862 Mr. Fergus drove his own team from Little Falls, Minnesota, to Bannock, Montana territory. He became quite prominent in territorial affairs and was influential in the organization of the new county of Madison, in that territory, and held many positions of trust and responsibility. He served two terms in the Montana Legislature, and was a member of the constitutional convention of 1887. He continued to live in Montana, where his death occurred several years ago.

Mr. Fergus is described by his biographer as a man of strict integrity, an ardent lover of good books and study. He had an aptitude for mechanical enterprises and a sturdy independence of thought. He was a typical pioneer, with mechanical and intellectual ability above the average; one to whom much is due for the founding of enterprises that the later generation has developed among the great industries of the West.

THE FIRST SETTLER.

Although the site of Fergus Falls was located and given a name in the winter of 1856, as above stated, it was not until some time in the spring of 1857 that any white man attempted to make a settlement here. Whitford had gone back to Little Falls after locating the town and remained there until the early spring of 1857, when he returned to Fergus Falls with a team and supplies to make a settlement here. He built a log cabin on a claim which he had located and did something in the way of cultivating the ground, but his main dependence for a living was in hunting and fishing. There was an abundance of game and fish in the surrounding country. There were also numerous Indians who made occasional visits to his cabin during his absence and stole his teams and anything else to which they took a fancy. Sometimes Whitford had company and sometimes he was alone. Henry Edger, one of the discoverers of the Alder Gulch gold mine, in Montana, spent one winter with him. An eccentric Scotchman, named Smith, lived there for some years. He was killed by the Indians. Whitford was killed by Indians just below Ft. Ambercrombie, on his way up Red river during the Sioux massacre, in 1862.

The foregoing statements are based on an account of the location of Fergus Falls as a town site as related by James Fergus, himself, in a letter published in the *Fergus Falls Advocate*, June 29, 1872. After relating how, when and by whom the townsite was located and given the name which it bears, and correcting some misstatements as to his visit to the place, and

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what he had to do with its founding, he says: "This is all I know about Fergus Falls. It might have been named for a better man, but it might have been named for a worse."

It is related that in 1857 or 1858 a surveying party, headed by Gen. T. H. Barrett, of St. Cloud, visited this place and made a plat of the proposed town, although no record has been found to verify this statement. At the same time, it is also stated this same surveying party visited the town site of Breckenridge and made a plat of that town, naming it after the man who was at that time vice-president of the United States, and who was afterwards United States senator, and later joined the Confederate army and held the rank of major-general.

To Joe Whitford, therefore, belongs the distinction of being the first white man who made a settlement in the new town. Although in the midst of the Indians, who were not any too friendly with the whites at that time. Whitford lived in comparative peace until he was killed by the Indians in 1862. The census of 1860 gives the following data on Whitford: "Age, thirty-five; farmer; real property, five hundred dollars; born in Vermont; insane." If he was actually insane he must have recovered sufficiently to take care of himself.

THE SIOUX MASSACRE OF 1862.

It was the Sioux Indian War of 1862, when this band of savages created terror throughout this part of the state by their depredations and their brutal murder of men, women and children, that the peaceful conditions around the Joe Whitford cabin were changed. Both Whitford and his companion at that time were victims of the Indians' murderous tomahawk, as has been stated. A writer in the *Fergus Falls Journal*, of July 24, 1873, speaking of this incident, says:

"The writer well remembers to have seen the Whitford cabin once, looking dim, dilapidated, ghastly; suggestive of that dark fearful day, in 1862, when, beneath the murderous tomahawk and knife of the savage, hundreds of dear lives passed away. The cellar of the cabin may yet be seen, near Whitford street, just inside the fence of Henry G. Page's block. The spot should be marked and carefully preserved with a tablet with this inscription:

"'HERE DWELT JOE WHITFORD,
THE FIRST WHITE INHABITANT OF FERGUS FALLS;
KILLED BY SIOUX INDIANS
IN THE MASSACRE OF AUGUST, 1862.

"With much the same feeling that is inspired by the little iron disc, in the pavement on State street, in Boston, which marks the spot where fell the first martyrs of the American Revolution."

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THE FIRST PERMANENT SETTLER.

History gives to Joe Whitford the distinction of being the first white man to build a home and stake out a claim for a settlement in Fergus Falls, but to Ernest Buse belongs the distinction of being the first permanent settler. Whitford's untimely death at the hands of the murderous savages effaced whatever there might have been for him in the future prosperity of the town, in which his lonely cabin stood as an evidence of his courage and energy, and his faith in the future of the townsite he had located.

Few men in history of Otter Tail county in its first decade were more prominent than Ernest Buse. The career of this worthy old pioneer is typical of the thousands of frontiersmen who braved the dangers of settlement in a new and unsettled country. The following articles, written by Buse, appeared in the *Fergus Falls Journal* on December 21, 1890:

"In 1854 a colony of us left Buffalo, New York, bound for Red Wing, Minnesota. Galena, Illinois, was in those days the end of all railroads. From there by steamer to Red Wing was one hundred and twenty miles. The steamer rang the bell and Red Wing was reached. Seventeen families were in our party. We looked for the city and found six houses. Next day we struck out on foot, as there were no teams to be had, looking for good farms. We found plenty of farms but wolves, rattle-snakes and Sioux Indians scared ten families of our party back to the state of New York. The same Indians claimed the west bank of the Mississippi river, the Chippewa Indians claimed the east side and the two bands were then at war. However, we settled eight miles from Red Wing, on Hay creek. Minnesota was a territory then. The Indians had a war between themselves at Red Wing. In 1857 the Sioux Indians killed a lot of white settlers west of us and in 1862 the Sioux Indians all went west to the Minnesota river where the big massacre took place. All over the western and northern part of the state the Indians rose and hundreds of white settlers were killed by the savage Sioux. All of our group of settlers organized themselves into a company and the government sent us old Belgian muskets to protect ourselves with. It was a very sad time among the settlers of our neighborhood.

"In a short time all the trouble was over, and times were good for money was not in the country. Every business man made his own money on a piece of paper or cardboard. It was all the money we knew of. A gold dollar was worth from two or three dollars in paper. About once a week we would go to a dance. We would take a yoke of oxen and sleigh, put plenty of hay in the box, take our fiddler along, all get in, and off we would go to some neighbors and have a good time. Ten or fifteen years passed and we look back and see what a lot of mistakes we made in not taking better advantage of frontier times. By 1865 the Civil War and Indian troubles

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were all over and we felt that the time had come to start out again and strike for a prospect of a new townsite. So a pair of ponies was hitched to a covered wagon, revolvers were strapped on and a pocket compass headed us for the northwest again. Everything went well. No bridges were across the streams, no roads across the beautiful prairie and only Indian canoes were on the lakes, but there was plenty of fish and fine game, ducks, geese and deer, bear, wild cats, lynx and rattlesnakes.

"In June, 1865, I reached Otter Tail county and found a settlement of Mormons on lake Clitherall, who had just settled among the Indians. It was surely something new and surprising. I went on traveling. While in the river trying to cross, there was a monster big black bear with two cubs on the north shore of the river. The same spot is now the village of Frazee City. I tried to scare the bear but as I saw that he would not scare I thought I had better scare and turned back and went west.

"The beautiful prairies, the fine groves of timber and the placid lakes I saw grew finer and finer every day. On the Fourth day of July, 1866, when I heard the roaring of water at the distance of two miles, I made up my mind that this was my home, live or die. By examining the country around I found that at Dayton, where the Otter Tail Power Company now has its plant, five miles southwest of Fergus, a family had been living, but had gone to St. Cloud on account of the Indian war. It was Mr. Wright and family. The Indians had killed part of his family. So here I was twenty-five miles from any neighbor, but the prospects looked so good that I felt must settle here. Two lonely years were put in here. It was fifty miles to the nearest store. After three years the settlers came in like flocks of sheep.

"One day I went to Alexandria, a distance of fifty miles, to buy some goods. On my way back home I saw some settlers in St. Olaf township at work building a fort and throwing up breastworks. They informed me that the Indians had broken out again, and that they had killed everybody in Fergus Falls. As my family was the only one that lived there I was paralyzed with fear and dread. I put my horse to a full gallop and the fifteen miles were covered in a short time. I found my family all right. By investigation I was informed by a friendly Indian that the trouble was only between two of the Indian tribes and that my family was not in danger.

"A little later Hans Mattson, state auditor, came up with a load of Springfield muskets. Each of us received a musket and formed a company here for our protection. Ragnor Kalling was captain of this company. All the settlers at Fergus Falls at this time were: Ernest Buse, Herman Mathias, Edward Grussendorf, J. Greenagle, Henry Opperman, Peter Johnson, three Kalling brothers, two Wessberg brothers, three Holdens, and a

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few others." One of these must have been Henry Hanigsen, the first postmaster.

Edward Grussendorf, a German Lutheran minister, was the first preacher of the Gospel to settle in Fergus Falls. He was married in 1862, settled in Red Wing, Minnesota, and came to Fergus Falls in 1869, his family being the third to settle on the present site. The other families were Mrs. Grussendorf's brother, Ernest Buse, and his brother-in-law, Henry Hanigsen, they having settled here in June, 1868. In 1870 Rev. Grussendorf opened a small store, undoubtedly the first in the village, which he operated a short time. He was elected justice of the peace for Fergus Falls township in 1870, the first one to be elected in the township, and was one of the organizers of Buse township in 1871.

Quoting again from the article of Buse in the *Journal* of December 21, 1890, more light is thrown on the early history of Fergus Falls:

"In the fall of 1864, before any new settlements had been made west of Alexandria, the old settlers of 1862 having been all killed or driven away by the Indians, the surveyed lands in this region were offered for public sale in the St. Cloud land office. Whitford had not perfected his title; Fergus had gone off to Montana with Capt. Jim Fiske, and Fergus Falls remained without an owner for a year or two. This set it out of the world, worthless and would always remain so. Such was the popular idea.

"One day a surveyor, named Wright, lounging around the land office at St. Cloud, conceived the idea that the place might be worth a hundred dollars, and laid a piece of college scrip for that amount on one quarter section of the land for a friend of his. The friend offered the investment at cost, and the surveyor finally paid him the one hundred dollars with interest.

"Subsequently, Hon. H. C. Wait, of St. Cloud, thinking the surveyor might have secured a good location, made an investment of forty dollars in land on which the mills and central part of the town are now located. But afterwards, becoming tired of his bargain, he sold the land to Wright at cost, one dollar and twenty-five cents per acre. Before this time R. J. Mendenhall had entered the greater portion of the land south of the river. Various other parties, still later, entered the other lands in the vicinity. Even as late as 1870 there was good government land subject to entry within half a mile of the Falls."

The history of Fergus Falls for the first decade has been well preserved by George B. Wright in two booklets which were issued by him in 1874 and 1881, respectively. He was identified with the history of the village for twelve years (1870-82), and during this time was actively interested in the sale of lots in the city and of land in the county and also in other parts of this section of the state. During this period he issued two

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separate advertising booklets, both of which exhibit the unique originality of the man as an advertising genius. When it is remembered that at the beginning of his connection with Fergus Falls he actually gave away lots to all who would agree to build on them within one year, it may be seen that he was making use of unusual means to advertise his townsite. When the news was circulated throughout the state that the owner of a likely townsite was actually giving away lots there was an immediate influx of settlers to the embryonic city on the Red river of the North. How many were actually drawn thither because of this announcement is not known, although it is probably true that the offer induced a number of people to locate in the village who might otherwise have journeyed on and settled elsewhere. John W. Mason, who arrived in the metropolis on June 7, 1871, received the last gift lot of Wright.

The first sketch of the "Coming City" appeared in 1874, and is reproduced exactly as Mr. Wright wrote it. It follows:

August 19, 1870, there was no Fergus Falls. Fergus was in Montana and the "Falls" were here; but there was no town. Our beautiful grove was filled with a jungle of undergrowth; the green prairie dotted over with patches of brush, that, along the north shore opposite where the saw-mills are, thickened into an almost impenetrable snarl of hazel and plum brush and vines.

There were piping times in the little frog pond north of Lincoln avenue, which has since been drained by a municipal despotism; a huge black bear of the "hug" species kept solitary watch and guard in a four-story mansion under the bank on the south shore; and the pickerel, sturgeon and catfish had it all their own way in the river.

At noon of that day a solitary grasshopper on the hill where Sims' store stands, might have signalled several heavily loaded teams coming over the brow of the ridge a mile to the south, the vanguard of our present "army of occupation." They camped on the north shore where the upper bridge now is, and before night had cleared the brush from the river bank and broken ground for the upper dam (since rebuilt). The party were in charge of H. A. Dow, of St. Anthony, an experienced constructor of dams, and consisted of twelve or fifteen muscular American citizens of the *maler* sort. They built the old mill boarding house, the log part of which was the first building on the town site (the old cabin of Whitford built in 1856 or 7 excepted), and afterward the dam and saw-mill, and about December 1st the first log was made into lumber in Fergus Falls. A temporary grist-mill with one run of stone was during the succeeding winter placed in the saw-mill, and flour and feed were ground in Fergus Falls within six months after the first stroke of work on the town site. Preparations for a city were early made. On the morning of the 20th of August, 1870, about 18 hours after the commencement of the mills, a surveying force under charge of L. Grout, of St. Cloud, was put at work surveying the town site. About 280 acres was at the time surveyed and platted as the original town of Fergus Falls. Several additions have since been surveyed and platted by different parties, so that the whole amount now laid out is about 800 acres.

The town proprietors, Messrs. Wright & Mendenhall, of Minneapolis, advertised that they would give away lots for actual occupancy on condition that good buildings should be put up on the lots given. The first lot was taken by E. W. Sims, second from the corner of Lincoln avenue and Mill street, and in a few days after the commencement of the dam, Sims had the Pioneer Store in full blast. The old log store was looked up to

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in those days as the best building in Fergus Falls. What queer metamorphoses have three years wrought. A few weeks later Messrs. Picket & Abbott opened out on the corner opposite Sims in a real pine covered building, the lumber of which was brought all the way from Otter Tail City. Their store was the first frame building in Fergus. Others followed, and by April, 1871, the nucleus of a village was formed. On the 15th day of April, 1871, O. S. King flung out his banner, the *Advocate*, and from that day to this Fergus has been known to the world through the columns of a regularly published newspaper. The first white child born at Fergus was Nelly D. Hartley, May 26th, 1871. Proof of scriptural inaccuracy is found in the fact that the first was not last in this case.

THE FERGUS OF 1873.

Three years have passed since the site of Fergus has been occupied by civilized man. The then wilderness of Otter Tail county now supports a population of not less than 6,000 people. In every direction broad fields of grain meet the traveler's eye. Fergus is the county seat and business center of this rich and powerful county.

The extensive flouring mills of Page & Scott are not excelled in completeness of appointments or perfection of work by any in the state. Half a mile above the upper bridge Jacob Austin has built a new dam and is engaged in putting in another first-class flouring-mill. The saw and planing-mills and furniture factory serve up all kinds of lumber in every style of high art and with the utmost expedition. We have a municipal government which, for modesty only and not for lack of powers, we call *village* authorities, and when we break ordinances we discover ourselves before the village justice and are fined with neatness and dispatch.

Our streets have been engineered and profiled and if our grades are not established they ought to be, and our principal streets are graded—more or less—and numerous culverts and drains make us healthy; if you don't think so just pick a small quarrel with us and try our muscle.

Two substantial bridges (over Union avenue and Cascade street) span the swift and beautiful Red river and three substantial dams vex its waters to the pecuniary benefit of the people of America.

A large, two-story school house with a bell and a $4,000 bond on top of it, stands on block 6, and small boys look up to it as if it were the veritable Temple of Fame, that used to illuminate the frontispiece of Webster's spelling book in days agone.

Two pretty churches, with clean white walls and spires (Presbyterian and Congregational), adorn two pleasant eminences, and another (Methodist Episcopal) is now being built. Three other church organizations have yet no buildings. A national bank with a paid up capital of $50,000 (authorized to increase to $200,000) is doing a safe and successful business, and it is rumored that the stockholders intend to double the capital at an early day. We have nine stores of general merchandise: two of hardware exclusively, each connecting with it tin manufacture; one harness manufacturer; two boot and shoe shops; one jeweler; two drug stores; two saloons; six hotels; two millinery and one furniture store; one consolidated meat market; two blacksmiths and one wagon shop; one livery stable and stage line; one brick yard; one physician; five lawyers, and a barber to shave those who escape the sharp ones; one telegraph office; a lodge of Free Masons and Royal Arch Chapter; two newspapers and job printing offices, the *Journal* and *Advocate*, the first named being entirely printed at home, and the latter supplied with ready-made "Cheap John Intestines" (inside printed abroad). And when I state that we have three railroads, neither one of which is completed, I name the ground of our present unhappiness. And I suppose when we have sixteen railroads and a population of 50,000, that we shall no more be happy then than now. The St. Paul & Pacific (a land grant road) mostly graded and probably to be completed in 1874; the Minneapolis & St. Louis (special charter) from Minneapolis via Fergus to the Northern Pacific railroad; and the Duluth, Fergus Falls & Breckenridge (organized under general law), which has been located.

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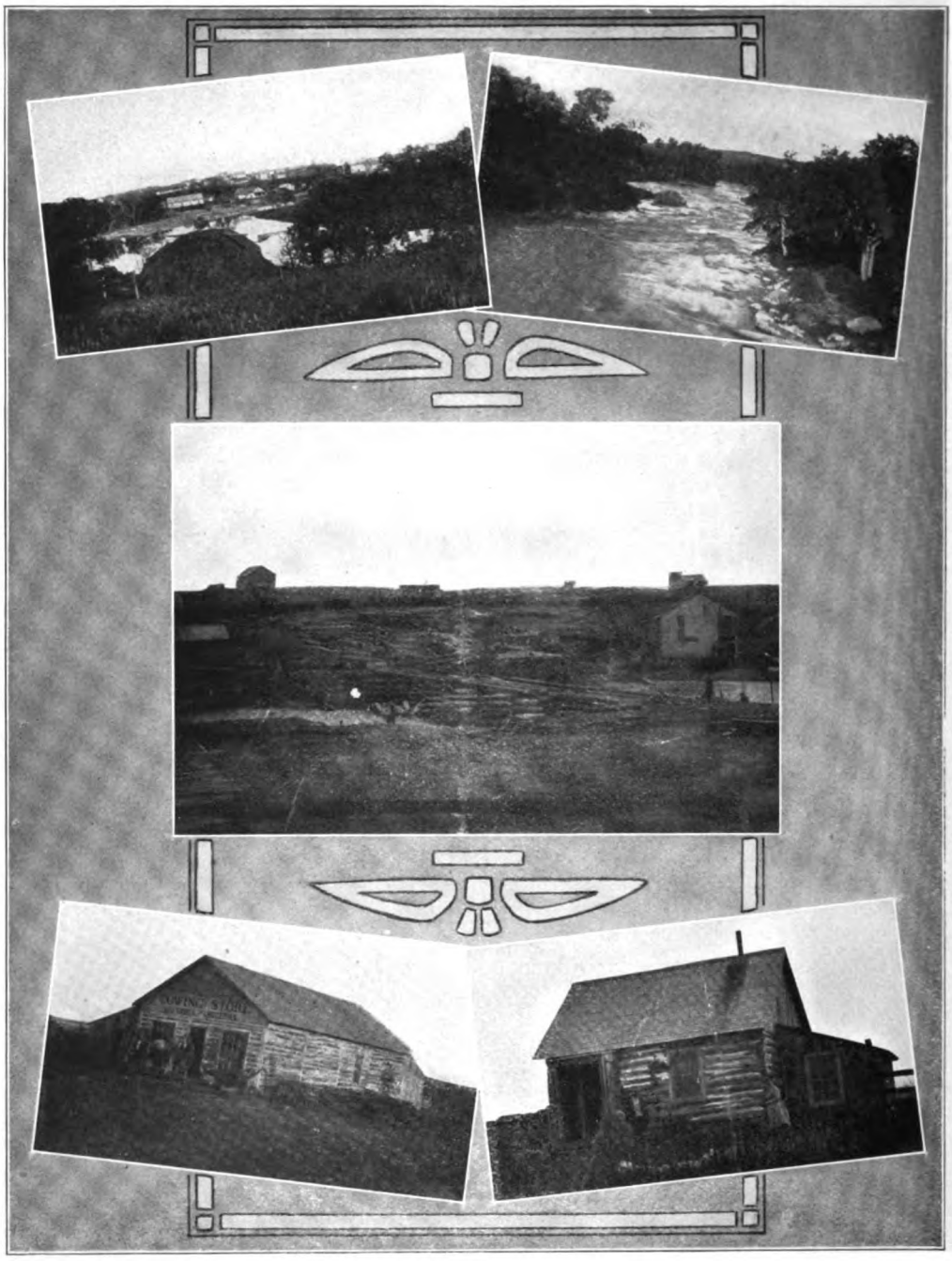

FERGUS FALLS IN 1871.

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The sublime virtue of patience is no part of the composition of the Yankee. Unless we can realize on our speculations in fifteen minutes by the watch, business is voted "slowly." But an "Old Settler" who has lived through the dark year from 1858 to 1863 in Minnesota can afford to take the ups and downs with a reasonable degree of philosophy. He looks back and sees what a few years have done for Illinois and Iowa, and he knows that Minnesota and especially our beautiful Park Region for which Nature has done so much, cannot fail in a few years to be rich and populous as any portion of Illinois, and that a town with such rare natural advantages, supplemented by so much public spirit, intelligence and business energy as Fergus can show, must inevitably become the leading city of an extensive and prosperous region, and like the interior cities of Illinois, speedily run up a population of five, ten or twenty thousand. Where is the man who dares tread on the tail of my coat when I advance the confident assertion that ten years hence Fergus will be by far the largest town in Minnesota north of Minneapolis.

PIONEER ADVERTISERS.

A glance at the first number of the *Fergus Falls Advocate* furnishes the best evidence of the growth of the village, in a little more than six months, by the business enterprises that are represented in the *Advocate's* advertising columns. The following were represented in the first number of that paper; the pioneer advertisers and business men of Fergus Falls:

Fergus Falls Business Directory, April, 1871.

Cowing & Company, dealers in dry goods, groceries, etc.

Buse & Henning, manufacturers and dealers in furniture.

E. W. Sims, Pioneer store, apothecary, drugs, groceries, etc.

Ernest Buse, dealer in agricultural implements.

James Chambers, dry goods, groceries and general merchandise.

D. M. McPherson, watches, clocks and jewelry sold and repaired.

Hunter, Dewey & Company, contractors and builders; John Vickrey conducted a meat market; W. H. Smith, saloon and billiards. The lawyers were Bert Melville, Newton H. Chittenden and E. E. Corliss. J. W. Mason appeared on June 7, 1871.

FERGUS FALLS IN 1871.

The illustrations on the opposite page comprise scenes in Fergus Falls in 1871 and are reproduced from rare old photographs in the possession of C. D. Wright. The picture in the upper left-hand corner was taken from about the middle of reserve 82, looking a little north of west. The buildings in the foreground are on reserve 67. To the left is George B. Wright's stable, while the building to the immediate right was a large boarding house which Wright erected to accommodate the men who were building his mill and surveying the town site. In the upper right-hand corner is a view of the Red river in Fergus Falls in 1871. The picture was probably taken from the bridge on Union avenue, looking east and up the river, a little beyond Mill street. The central picture, a view of the South Side, Fergus

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Falls, in 1871, was taken from a point a little east and north of the north end of the Cascade street bridge and looking towards the southwest. The two-story building to the left was used for a court house from 1873 to 1877. The small log building with the shed in rear, standing on Mill street on the east side between Bismark and Junius avenue, was built by William Salvage. It appears in the picture to the right of the centre. The small house to the right of the Salvage house and further south, is standing on lot 1, block 50, and is the same lot on which the house of the Hon. John W. Mason now stands. The building to the extreme right, standing on the banks of Red river, was the combined saw- and grist-mill built and owned by George B. Wright. It stood on reserve 80. The bridge is across Cascade street, the first permanent one to be built across Red river in Fergus Falls. The pole bridge was on Union avenue, built about a year before the Cascade street one. The lower left-hand view is of Cowing's store, which stood on lots 3 and 4, block 20, on Lincoln avenue, but, strange to say, nearly a hundred feet from the avenue. In front of it was the croquet ground which is described in the reminiscences of the editor. In the lower right-hand corner is the residence and office of Dr. R. M. Reynolds, the first physician in Fergus Falls. His residence, built in 1871 on lot 10, block 35, was one of the first buildings erected on the South Side.

FERGUS FALLS WATER POWER.

Nearly all great industrial centers have been located where nature, anticipating the wants of man, has created falls and rapids in her great water courses, and in no place has nature been more lavish with her gifts than here at Fergus Falls. This fact was readily recognized by that exploring party, sent out by James Fergus, in search of a townsite. When, by the advice and direction of the Indians, they came to this place and took a view of the situation, they at once decided that this was a most favorable location for a town. Those primitive pioneers may be credited with a wise foresight, although it was not possible for them to have realized to the full extent the great resources that were here waiting for development, nor to have foreseen that the selected town site was to become a flourishing city, by the application of the thrift and enterprise of a future generation.

The Red river of the North is a stream nearly a thousand miles in length, and yet, strange to say, its source and mouth are scarcely more than two hundred and fifty miles apart. The river finds its source in Elbow lake, some sixty or seventy miles northeast of Fergus Falls, and not more than a dozen miles from lake Itasca, the source of the Mississippi. The course of the Red river to Fergus Falls is through numerous large lakes, which, with other lakes flowing in on either side, furnish a supply of water that has scarcely any variation from one year to another. This uniform stage of the

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river is of great advantage in affording uniform power for industrial purposes.

At Fergus Falls there is a fall in the river of eighty-five feet within the city limits, and within a short distance of the town, above and below, there is a fall of one hundred and fifty feet. The natural formation of the banks of the stream is such that mills and manufacturing industries may be placed in close proximity to each other, and dams can be constructed at a very moderate cost.

INCORPORATED AS A VILLAGE.

From that day in August, 1870, when that keen-eyed grasshopper might have signalled the approach of loaded wagons with the teams coming over the brow of the hill from the south, accompanied by a party of laborers and mechanics—from that day dates the beginning of Fergus Falls. New settlers began to come in and the population increased rapidly. In less than a year the village had a population of about six hundred and application was made to Legislature for a charter. In compliance with this request Fergus Falls was incorporated as a village by the Legislature, February 29, 1872. The act provided for annual elections on the first Tuesday of April, at which time there were to be chosen a president, recorder, treasurer, three trustees, assessor and one justice of the peace. The inspectors provided by the act for the first election were Jacob Austin, James Chambers and Ernest Buse. This incorporating act is a long, rambling ambiguous and wonderfully constructed piece of municipal law. If the genius who drew the bill and the statesmen who voted for it were able to follow and comprehend its meaning, through all its meandering course, they were above the average. But the act served the purpose intended just as well as if it had been easily understood.

THE FIRST VILLAGE ELECTION.

Under the provisions of this incorporating act the following notice of a village election was given by the inspectors named in the act:

"The legal voters of Fergus Falls are hereby notified that an election will be held at Jacob Austin's building, next to N. B. Warren's hardware store, on Tuesday, the 26th day of March, 1872, for the election of one president, one recorder, three trustees, one treasurer, one assessor and one justice of the peace. Said election to be held between nine and ten o'clock, a. m., and until five o'clock p. m.

"Dated, Village of Fergus Falls, March 11, 1872.

"JACOB AUSTIN,
"JAMES CHAMBERS,
"E. BUSE,
"Inspectors of Election."

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BOUNDARIES OF THE VILLAGE.

The act of incorporation fixed the following boundaries of the village of Fergus Falls, and only the legal voters residing within this boundary were entitled to vote at the election:

"The whole of sections two, three and four, and the north half of sections nine, ten and eleven, in town one hundred and thirty-two north, range forty-three west. And the southwest quarter of section twenty-five; and the south half of sections twenty-six and twenty-seven; and the southeast quarter of section twenty-eight; and the east half of section thirty-three, and all of sections thirty-four and thirty-five; and the west half of section thirty-six, in town one hundred and thirty-three north, range forty-three west."

FIRST VILLAGE OFFICIALS.

Although the emoluments were not enticing, yet there was quite a spirited contest for some of the village offices, at the election, March 26, 1872. When the votes were counted, which was not a lengthy nor a laborious task, the following had a sufficient number of votes to entitle them to the distinction of being the first officials of the village of Fergus Falls: President, Ernest Buse; recorder, Justus Pickit; trustees, K. O. Harris, E. Robey and S. B. Miles; treasurer, W. C. Bacon; justice of the peace, John H. Harteau.

The following is a transcript from the record of the first meeting of the village council: "At a meeting held this the 30th day of March, 1872, the following officers having been notified of their election presented their acceptance of office: Ernest Buse, as president of the village of Fergus Falls, Minnesota; Justus Pickit, recorder; E. Roby, S. B. Miles and K. O. Harris, as trustees of said village. As members of the common council of the village of Fergus Falls, they proceeded to business, E. Buse acting as president.

"On motion a vote was taken that the bond of the treasurer be fixed at eight hundred dollars. Ayes: Robey, Miles, Harris and Pickit; noes, none.

"On motion a vote was taken that the bond of the recorder be fixed at six hundred dollars. Ayes: Miles, Harris and Robey; noes, Pickit.

"On motion the bond of the justice of the peace was fixed at five hundred dollars. Council adjourned.

"J. Pickit, Recorder.

"Dated this the 30th day of March, 1872."

OTHER COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS.

At a special meeting held April 1, 1872, all the members were present. The bonds of the recorder, treasurer and justice of the peace were presented

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and accepted. Newton H. Chittenden was appointed village attorney. Alonzo Brandenburg was appointed marshal, with a bond of four hundred dollars attached. John Harteau was instructed to prepare plans and estimated cost of a jail or lockup.

Among other business transacted at the meeting of the council, April 16, 1872, was the adoption of thirteen rules for government of that body. Some of these rules read very much like the rules of the old-time schoolmaster, prepared and read to his scholars on the first day of school; the rules were usually solemnly impressive and wholly impossible of strict enforcement. That the members of the first village council had a due regard for the dignity and the responsibility of their official position, and were determined to hold the members of that body down to a strict attention to business and to the observance of a proper decorum, is evidenced by the following among the rules adopted for their government:

"Rule 6—When the council adjourns the members shall keep their seats until the presiding officer announces the adjournment."

"Rule 9—The president, or any two members, may have a call of the council made and the names of the absentees shall be noted by the recorder. Every such absentee, not offering a reasonable excuse for his absence when called upon, or when summoned for that purpose, shall be fined one dollar; and all members leaving before the adjournment of the council without obtaining leave of the presiding officer shall be fined one dollar."

A careful examination of the proceedings of this and all the succeeding village councils does not disclose a record of any member of the council being reprimanded for not keeping his seat until the presiding officer told him the council was adjourned and that he might go home. Nor does the treasurer's books show the receipt of any fine imposed for absentees without proper excuse. The record of proceedings show that members were frequently absent but no excuses were called for, so far as the record shows.

FIFTY THOUSAND DOLLARS RAILROAD BONDS.

At a special meeting of the village council, May 3, 1872, a petition of twelve legal voters was presented asking for a special election to be called for the purpose of voting upon the proposition to issue bonds to the amount of fifty thousand dollars, to pay the increased cost of the construction of the Fergus Falls route, over that by way of Dayton, for the St. Cloud & St. Vincent, or the Pembina branch of the St. Paul & Pacific railroad. The council heard the petition and made an order for a special election to be held for a vote upon that proposition, June 3, 1872. That the people of the then little village wanted a railroad, and wanted it to make a donation of that amount, is evidenced by that fact that the vote on that proposition, at the

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election, June 3, was all but unanimous. Fortunately for the taxpayers the bonds were never issued.

MORE AMENDMENTS TO THE VILLAGE CHARTER.

The next Legislature passed an act (March 4, 1873), amending the original charter of Fergus Falls. If the genius who prepared the bill for this act had a desire to make it more ambiguous and more unintelligible than the original charter, he certainly accomplished his desire. This amendment was principally devoted to a change in the manner of voting at the village elections. The method evolved by the author of this bill was known as "the preference vote," a complicated problem in higher mathematics. That manner of voting was too complicated for the average mind. The people of Fergus Falls did not waste any time in trying to understand the "preference vote;" they threw the preference vote foolishness into the scrap heap and went on voting in the same old sensible way. At the next session of the Legislature this preference vote act was repealed.

The next amendment to the village charter was enacted by the Legislature, February 14, 1879. This was of minor importance, merely making an exception to one of the articles in the original charter. Another amendment was added by the same Legislature and approved February 28, 1879. This gave the village council added power in opening, altering and vacating public streets, and giving them greater jurisdiction within the corporate limits.

FIRST SCHOOL DISTRICT.

Following is the official notice of the organization of the first school district (No. 21 in Otter Tail county) within the limits of Fergus Falls:

Fergus Falls, May 27th, 1872.

O. Jorgens, Esq.
Auditor Otter Tail County Minn.

Dr. Sir: Please take notice that at a meeting of the legal voters residing within the limits of the village of Fergus Falls, in said county & State, held May 24 "A. D. 1872, the territory embraced by said village was organized into a school District, agreebly to An Act of the legislature of said State passed during the session of 1871 & 1872, and that said District consists of the following described territory to wit: The whole of Sections two (2) three (3) four (4) and the north half of Sections nine (9) ten (10) and eleven (11) in Township One Hundred and thirty-two (132) North of Range forty three (43) west, and South west quarter of sections twenty five (25) and South half of Sections twenty six (26) and twenty seven (27) and southeast quarter of section twenty eight (28) and east half of section thirty three (33) and all of Sections thirty four (34) and thirty five (35) and west half of section thirty six (36) in township one hundred & thirty three (133) North of Range forty three (43) West.

J. W. Mason,
Clerk of said Dist.

FERGUS FALLS BECOMES THE COUNTY SEAT.

The remarkable growth of Fergus Falls, through the energy and enterprise of the progressive people who had located here during the years 1871

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and 1872, gave every assurance that this was the coming city of Otter Tail county, and was to become the industrial center of this part of the state. It was the ambition of its leading citizens to make it a county seat. The county seat had been located at Otter Tail City in 1868 by the Legislature in the act organization of the county. Various schemes were devised to accomplish the desire of the Fergus Falls people. First it was proposed to organize a new county to be known as Holcomb county, to be composed of certain parts of Otter Tail and Wilkin counties, making Fergus Falls the county seat. By an act of the Legislature this proposition was submitted to a vote of the people of Otter Tail county, at the general election, November 11, 1871. The proposition failed to carry, the vote being six hundred and eleven for, and seven hundred and sixty against a division of the county. The sentiment of Fergus Falls on this proposition was expressed by a vote of two hundred and one in favor and seven against it.

But the agitation of the question did not cease because of this adverse vote. At the next session of the Legislature a bill was presented by a representative in that body (E. E. Corliss), from Otter Tail county, proposing to detach six townships from the eastern part of Wilkin county and making them a part of Otter Tail county. Another bill provided that Fergus Falls should be the county seat of the enlarged county. The bills passed with the provision that they should be submitted to voters at the following general election. Both bills carried and the county seat was removed from Otter Tail City to Fergus Falls in the latter part of 1872. This was a serious blow to the little "city" by the lake. The town was practically dismantled within a year. People tore down their houses and loaded the lumber and other material on rafts and floated them down the river to rebuild again in the new county seat. This move put Fergus Falls on the map in large letters and gave a great impetus to its industrial development.

LACK OF RAILROAD FACILITIES.

Having secured the county seat, the ambition of Fergus Falls people was still unsatisfied. They needed a railroad as an outlet for the products of the factory and farm, and they needed it a long time before they secured it. The railroad question will be handled more in detail in another chapter. Merely as an illustration of the hopes and anxieties, the illusions and disappointments regarding prospective railroads coming to Fergus Falls in its early history, an editorial in the *Fergus Falls Advocate*, of March 2, 1872, is submitted. In that issue the editor devotes a column in startling black display type, announcing that the location of the St. Cloud & St. Vincent railroad through Fergus Falls is a certainty; that sub-contracts for grading had been let from St. Cloud to a point thirty miles northwest of Fergus

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Falls; that the cars would certainly be running by the last of November, 1872, and the first train ran into Fergus Falls December 2, 1879.

SOME ACTS OF THE VILLAGE COUNCIL.

In the beginning of their official career the members called their assembled body "The Common Council of Fergus Falls," but it occurred to them later that this was not the legal title as authorized by the charter. At a meeting, January 29, 1873, the council amended all the ordinances adopted under the title of "Common" council, and by resolution declared the official name to be, "The Village Council of the Village of Fergus Falls."

The council had some trouble in the adoption of satisfactory license fees. In one of their earlier meetings the following schedule was adopted: For retail liquor license, $250 per year; for wholesale liquor dealers, $150 per year; for billiard and pool tables, each, $5 per year; for bowling alleys, $10 per year. Druggists were required to pay fifty dollars a year for the privilege of selling liquors for medicinal purposes only.

This license legislation was incorporated in ordinance No. 1. A succeeding council, at their meeting, April 2, 1873, repealed this ordinance and enacted another reducing the liquor license fees about one-half and doubling the fees for billiard tables. The next council made a still further reduction in the retail liquor license fee.

The village marshal, at the council meeting, June 3, 1872, presented a bill of ten dollars for killing and burying five dogs, two dollars per dog. The council, after due deliberation, decided that this was too expensive a funeral for the average dog and cut the marshal's bill to five dollars.

At their meeting, June 2, 1873, the council instructed the street commissioner to refund the poll tax to ministers of the Gospel who had paid said tax. On February 11, 1874, George B. Wright made a proposal to sell the village various plans and profiles of the original plat, as made by James Patterson, for sixty dollars, the amount to be used only in payment of Wright & Mendenhall's taxes. The proposition was accepted.

On March 2, 1874, George B. Wright presented a proposition to sell to the village the upper bridge for the sum of eight hundred dollars. After various motions and much discussion this proposition was rejected. April 20, 1874, an order was made for a sidewalk on each side of Lincoln avenue: "Said walk to be eight feet wide, constructed of good substantial plank, two inches thick; cost of walk to be charged to property owners." A number of other walks of similar construction were ordered at this and subsequent meetings.

On March 8, 1880, J. O. Crommett was awarded the contract for a bridge across the river on Cascade street, for the sum of one hundred and

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sixty-two dollars and fifty cents. The record for April 7, 1880, shows that this bridge was completed and accepted and an order for the payment of the contractor made. Just what kind of a bridge could be built for that amount and in that time is not made clear by a reading of the record.

PRESIDENTS OF VILLAGE COUNCIL, 1872-81.

The names and terms of service of those who held the office of president of the village council from its incorporation in 1872 until the adoption of the city charter in 1881 are as follow: 1872 to 1873, Ernest Buse; 1873 to 1874, James Compton; 1874 to 1875, Samuel H. Nichols; 1875 to 1878, H. G. Page; 1878 to 1879, Jacob Austin; 1879 to 1881, James Compton.

FERGUS FALLS BECOMES A CITY.

Fergus Falls became a city as the result of the legislative act of March 3, 1881. No better picture of the city as it appeared in the spring of 1881 will ever be written than that which came from the pen of George B. Wright. His first description of the village in 1874 has already been given and his brochure of 1881 completes the history of the first decade of the town. This second monograph bears the peculiar title of "Coarse Fodder (Bran, Chips and Sawdust mostly), raked up by Old Settler, being Facts, Figures and Things relating to Fergus Falls, Minnesota." This ambiguously headed pamphlet gives a glimpse of Fergus Falls after ten years of growth and is here given in the exact words of its inimitable author, George B. Wright.

When ten years ago—August 19, 1870—late in the afternoon of a sunny summer day, the writer, driving a Red Indian pony attached to a wooden Red River cart big enough to make a load for six such ponies, entered the limits of the pleasant city of Fergus Falls, the "coming city" was not visible to the undressed vision. Faith alone could see its fair proportions; that faith indeed "which is the substance of things" that don't exist. That pony, that indomitable Red Indian, deserves a place in history, for he, even in his present humble sphere as motive power to a milk cart, may proudly say of the rising metropolis: "All of this I saw and part of this I was." That very morn had witnessed his first introduction to the arts of civilization. The wild Indian of the plains when first deprived of liberty had been remorselessly dragged by Fate in the shape of an Old Settler through the deep waters and over the rough rocks of adversity at Pomme de Terre crossing; himself, harness, cart, administrators and assigns, despite his tears, protests and vigorous resistance. It took an even hour for Fate to do the job, but in that brief hour had Indian Dick (for that was his name) learned one large chapter of the wisdom of earth—to submit gracefully to the inevitable; and when at eve the Old Settler gently requested him to cross the raging floods of Red River over the relics of which may yet be seen in the clear deep waters just above the lower dam and which was built by Ernest Buse and his neighbors at a total cost, as he once informed me, of seventy cents and five gallons of whiskey—Richard calmly accepted the responsible trust thus confided to him and trudged onward with the intrepid step of a veteran.

The heat and dust was not then insupportable, at least not any more so than it is likely to be next August.

Brick blocks, churches, schools, elevators, mills and railroads existed only in the imagination of—well, say Buse, Dick and the Old Settler.

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But the place had all the charming picturesqueness which it still retains, added to which was a wild beauty, a bloom of nature which the rough touch of the ostensibly civilized man has swept away. From the height of upland prairie to the south, the valley spread out before the traveler two miles broad, north and south, and a hundred feet in depth; yet so broken up with knobs and ridges, with gently sloping fields and bits of lakelets, the winding river and the groves and timber borders, that the eye took little note of the depth to which the river had cut down through these hills. To the east, Nob hill shuts out the view; westward, Telegraph hill marks the lower limit of the coming city.

This, then, is the site, two miles north and south by three miles east and west along the Red River, within which distance is claimed six water powers with over eighty feet fall, and 10,000 horse-power fooling away its days and nights to no useful end.

Mother Nature's children are all just so fearfully lazy and improvident, always sowing wild oats, and never putting by anything for a rainy day.

The site is a natural amphitheatre with room for 100,000 people, parquette, dress circle and galleries rising in pretty regular order one above the other. From his private box on the hills the retired citizen may overlook the play, and command a good view of all his neighbors.

The busy actor down below may look out from his counting room, or mill, or elevator, and see his home glittering like a jewel from the crest of some hill or half way up the slope. From scores of beautiful sites the whole valley may be taken in at one view. Northeasterly lies the heavy timber, the Otter Tail woods, thirty miles through, of solid hardwood timber. Southwesterly the wide prairies stretch out across western Minnesota and Dakota; endless wheat fields, but destitute of coal, wood or water-power. Directly west, eight miles away and two hundred feet below the lowest ground here, is the great Red River valley, forty miles broad, extending fifty miles south and three hundred miles north to Lake Winnipeg, a level alluvial plain twice as large as the state of Massachusetts, and capable of growing yearly a hundred million bushels of No. 1 hard wheat.

To the northwest, southeast, and, indeed, for some miles in all directions from Fergus, extends the rolling country, part timber, part prairie, and dotted over with countless lakes and ponds which, from its picturesque characteristics, has been fitly named the Park Region of Minnesota.

A dozen years ago, while Otter Tail county was yet an unsettled and "howling wilderness," this singularly beautiful and fertile region was far more impressive in its peculiarity than now, for buildings, fields and fences are everywhere associated in the mind with lands partly cleared and open and partly timbered. Then the lonely explorer might travel for days through a region where the work of man seemed everywhere abounding and yet where no man lived. Here and there, in groups or singly, stood broad spreading trees, such as one might see in a New England pasture. Anon, a mass of heavy woodland, rising tall and straight, sheer up from the grassy prairie adjoining; but man, his dwelling, his fields, his cattle, all swept away, and not a vestige left, save here and there on commanding hill tops the tumuli of the mound builders which are everywhere in the western states so common.

The traveler walked the fields of this deserted land amid a throng of the spirits of the past, and he heard their footsteps in the rustling leaf, and their voices in the gurgling brook. Now if he will walk those fields again, he hears in louder tones the mellifluous accent of the Norsk and the nasal twang of the Yankee of Vermont.

When the *Journal* set up shop in Fergus, seven years ago, the Old Settler brought in his sheaves and other "projuce," and laid them on the *Journal*-istic altar. He then gave some reminiscences, historical, imaginative and otherwise. Some descriptions of scenery so vivid that the attentive reader might recognize them (if labeled) and some predictions about as valuable as those of other weather prophets. But those were the

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days of faith rather than works; and if we of Fergus get out of the wilderness in less than forty years, we shall, by just so much, "beat the Jews" of old.

The Old Settler, in common with others, believes that the promised land is just before; that the "coming city" have comed, and, with your kind permission, he hopes to lay before your readers a picture of Fergus Falls as it now is, and as it may probably become."

A GLANCE AT FERGUS FALLS IN 1881.

A business directory is not ordinarily classed as a piece of historical literature and attains such dignity only after the lapse of many years. Fortunately there has been preserved a complete directory of Fergus Falls as it existed in the spring of 1881. Future generations may wonder who were the lawyers of Fergus Falls in 1881, who the barbers were, who managed the grocery stores, who operated the hotels, who the preachers were, the physicians, the newspaper editors, the saloon keepers, etc. The purpose of the few following paragraphs is to indicate in a general way what might have been seen in Fergus Falls in 1881.

Some wise man has said that the history of a country is the history of the men who live in it. If this be true, and it undoubtedly is, a list of all of the men identified in the business and professional interests in Fergus Falls in 1881 ought to give a good bird's eye view of the city as it then existed. Fergus Falls was incorporated a city by an act of the legislature, approved March 3, 1881, and for this reason additional interest attaches to the group of men represented in this directory of the city which appeared in April, 1881, in one of the unique brochures of George B. Wright. What a story could be written of these men of bygone days. Scores of them have passed to their reward, other scores have retired from active life, scores have left the city and are living elsewhere at the present time, and a few—very few—are living in Fergus Falls and following the same occupation today (1916) that they were thirty-five years ago.

As the eye glances at this list here appended, it meets the name of Corliss, and today the Hon. E. E. Corliss is custodian of the state capitol at St. Paul. A volume might be written if each name in this list—and they number more than one hundred and fifty—were taken up and treated separatly, but space forbids mentioning but a few. A careful checking of this list shows that only sixteen of the total number are now living in the city, namely: E. E. Corliss, C. J. Sawbridge, J. O. Barke, J. W. Mason, E. J. Evans, S. S. Fagerland, Jacob Nelson, P. Oelschlager, N. J. Mortensen, G. O. Dahl, Horace Pickit, O. C. Chase, Oliver Olson, A. M. Fargeman, B. A. Clark and A. Brandenburg. In this connection, it is pertinent to remark that of the professions represented in the city in 1871 there is only one man left who has spanned the forty-five years in the city in the same profession. This one man who has followed his profession from the day he arrived in

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the little village on June 7, 1871, down to the present time is John W. Mason.

The seven churches of the city in 1881 have grown to seventeen in 1916. The population of 570 in 1875 increased to 1,213 by January 1, 1880, and by April 1, 1881, when the appended directory was issued, it was estimated at 2,100. The election of November, 1880, showed 376 voters, and by February, 1881, the number had increased to 451, although the poll lists bore over 500 names.

Every occupation represented in 1881 is found in Fergus Falls in 1916, with one exception—the saloon has disappeared. Many occupations listed in the directory of today were unknown in 1881, and undoubtedly when the directory of 1951 is issued, as many more new occupations will have come into existence during the succeeding period of thirty-five years. One cannot help but notice the way representatives of some of the professions of 1881 have disappeared. It looks like the irony of fate to see that all the physicians have died, and that the only undertaker of the town has gone likewise; the ten saloon keepers have handed their last glass of beer across the bar; the barbers will talk to no more customers; the baker, Lowry, will no more have fresh bread for sale daily; not one of the five blacksmiths will shoe another horse; neither of the two restaurants of 1881 are ladling out any more soup; the one dentist has pulled his last tooth; not a hotel of 1881 is now giving out poor quarters for good dollars. Truly has time wrought great changes.

This interesting list of the business and professional men of 1881 will revive the memories of many of those still living who know them. The total number listed is one hundred and sixty-two; of this number it is known that sixteen are living in Fergus Falls at the present time, twenty-three are living elsewhere, while, of the remainder, the great majority are deceased. The list follows:

Attorneys—Corliss & Sawbridge, E. M. Wright, J. O. Barke, C. L. Lewis, H. E. Rawson, Williams & Chapman, P. O. Noben, J. W. Mason, E. J. Evans, J. M. R. Williams.

Bank—First National Bank of Fergus Falls.

Bakery—M. R. Lowry.

Barber Shops—Emerson & Kaufer, Fred Rollins.

Billiards—Fred Rollins, James O'Brien, Gray & Laib, Captain Dampier.

Books and Stationery—W. J. Hall.

Boots and Shoes—George B. Martin, dealer; George Kissinger, manufacturer; S. S. Fagerland, manufacturer.

Breweries—P. Oelschlager, Brown & Company.

Blacksmiths—Shaver & Eshelman, A. F. Shellman, J. P. Sherman, Blake Orr.

Brick Yards—Jake Nelson Brothers, Anderson & Bearbeau.

Carriage Shops—A. C. Cooper, M. H. Woolsey.

Carding Mill—A S. Anderson.

Cabinet-making—Mr. Beck.

Churches—Presbyterian, R. N. Adams, pastor; Methodist, Peter Clare, pastor; Congregationalist, W. L. Sutherland (supply); Episcopalian, G. E. Swan, rector; Swede

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Baptist, without pastor; Norwegian Lutheran (conference), N. Iverson, pastor; Norwegian Lutheran (synod), O. N. Fosmark, pastor.

Clothing—I. J. Brinn & Company.

Confectionery and Fruit—M. R. Lowry, manufacturer; W. J. Hall, Fred Rollins, M. V. Austin, G. C. Waters, J. Pickit.

Contractors and Builders—Irving Gage, J. W. Spendlove, J. O. Crummet, McGregor & Anderson, stone masons; A. A. Huseby, stone mason; R. C. Hammond, plasterer; Stanford Brothers, M. H. Woolsey.

Dentist—R. H. Phalon.

Drugs—George C. Miles, Nelson & Mortensen, A. L. Shore, J. B. Northrup.

Dry and Fancy Goods—I. J. Brinn & Company.

Elevators—Pillsbury & Company, A. G. Tod & Company, Adams & Company.

Flour and Feed—C. F. Clark, Clarke & Winther, Red River Roller Mills, C. H. Goodsell, L. J. Morrill.

Flouring Mills—Red River Roller Mills; Austin & Newcomb, Fergus Flour Mills, under construction.

Furniture—E. J. Woodham, manufacturer and dealer; Fred Gesswein, dealer.

General Stores—O. J. Sundhal, G. O. Dahl, J. W. Van Dyke, Knudson & Skavelem, Bertha Zaiser, Horace Pickit, O. C. Chase, P. Prinzi, H. F. Heitsch.

Groceries—Justus Pickit, Wick & Wessberg, Elden & Rhinehart, Austin & Hilton, Martin Linder, A. B. Haave & Company.

General Jobbing—J. H. Baker.

Guns and Sportsmen's Goods—George L. Nichols, agent.

Hardware—Liedl & Evans, W. H. Cowing, L. Goodsell, Wright & Cockroft, Johnson & Dahl.

Harness Makers—S. Terwilliger, Kaufer & Son.

Hotels—Bell's hotel, D. Bell; Occidental hotel, Jay Near; Cataract House, J. J. Schey; Farmer's hotel, J. G. Johnson; Minnesota House, Simon Olson; Central House, Martin Fyhri; Union House, Vike Brothers; Skandinavian hotel, Alexander Johnson.

Insurance Agencies—Mason & Lowry, P. O. Noben, H. A. Hamlin, Williams & Olson, W. J. Holmes, Corliss & Sawbridge.

Iron Foundary—Dakin & Smith.

Jewelry—Anderson & Fargeman, J. Back.

Livery—C. F. Clark, Sullivan & Sundhal.

Lumber Yards—George B. Wright, B. A. Clark.

Machine Shops—C. M. Breuer, A. F. Shellman.

Music Dealers—W. J. Holmes.

Machine Agents—Earl & Hanson, Springen & Company, A. O. Roise, Coats & Sundhal, A. Brandenburg, Cold & Shatto, K. O. Harris.

Meat Markets—Olson & Johnson, Harris & Roise, Jacob Frey.

Merchant Tailors—H. Pickit, R. R. Christlock, Quamme & Haakons.

Milliners—Mrs. George A. Burbank, Mrs. C. W. Smith.

Newspapers—*Fergus Falls Journal*, *Fergus Falls Advocate*, *Normanna Banner*.

Ninety-nine Cent Store—George C. Waters.

News Agencies—J. A. Flick, Hall's Bookstore.

Plow Works—George Babcock Smith.

Paint Shops—Maynard & Dwyer, J. W. Quick.

Physicians—R. M. Reynolds, T. J. Hutton, W. C. Bedford, H. C. Leonard.

Photographers—Hardy & Denison.

Real Estate—George B. Wright, S. Shoemaker & Company, R. Miller, Head & Cutler, C. J. Wright.

Restaurants—M. R. Lowry, M. L. Bank.

Saw and Planing Mills—George B. Wright, E. J. Woodham.

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Saloons—Gray & Laib, Jay Near, Matthies Brothers, Ingstrom & Nelson, James K. O'Brien, Captain Dampier, H. F. Heitsch.

Sewing Machines—W. J. Holmes, W. H. Cowing, W. C. Hurd, W. J. Hall.

Undertaker—E. J. Woodham.

The material prosperity of Fergus Falls and its rapid growth in the early part of the eighties may be traced to a variety of causes. It is undoubtedly true that its change to a city form of government in the spring of 1881 stimulated growth in all lines. The citizens took pride in the fact that they were no longer a mere village, but that they were now really entitled to the name of "city." The Great Northern, then called the Minneapolis, St. Paul & Manitoba, had reached here in December, 1879; in 1880 and 1881, the Northern Pacific was building its line through from Wadena to Breckenridge; a branch of the same line was going north from Fergus Falls to Pelican Rapids; there was even talk of other railroads reaching the city. The very air seemed surcharged with prosperity and every one felt that the "coming city," so-called a decade previously by George B. Wright, had about "come." During the first part of the eighties, and especially from 1880 to 1883, building operations assumed startling proportions. A fine court house was in process of construction. Scotch interests invaded the city with apparently unlimited capital at their command, and started investing in real estate, commenced erecting buildings and spending money with such a lavish hand that the citizens of the infant city fairly gasped. To think of a hundred-thousand-dollar hotel in a village where but a few years before, considerable less than ten, that amount of money would have bought the whole townsite and every house on it. George B. Wright was planning a hotel of even greater proportions, but abandoned his enterprise after seeing that the Scotchmen were intent upon building their hotel. Instead of building a hotel, Wright interested himself in trying to make Bismark avenue the business part of town. Frequent references have been made elsewhere in the history to the factional spirit which was all too prevalent in the early history of the town, and which, it may be said, may still be observed in the city. Apropos of this factional feeling, the history of the early eighties would not be complete without mentioning the effort to divert the business part of town from Lincoln to Bismark avenue.

LINCOLN AVENUE VS. BISMARK AVENUE.

The principal business street of Fergus Falls at the present time is Lincoln avenue, on the north side of the river. Many fine brick blocks are on Bismark avenue, on the south side of the river and thereby hangs a story. These buildings were erected in the eighties, and the reason for their existence is a phase of early history, which created much interest in the "coming city," and showed the selfishness of "business."

The first stores were erected on Lincoln avenue in 1871. By common

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consent that was to be the center of the mart of trade. For a time in that year Wright & Mendenhall gave lots to any one who would sign a contract for the same, agreeing to erect a building on the lot so donated. As may be imagined, these lots were promptly taken, so that by 1880 Wright & Mendenhall had practically disposed of all their lots on the street. It was filled with a rather inferior class of frame buildings, constituting the business portion of the town, and these buildings and their stocks represented the total earthly possessions of those pioneers who had come and invested their all in the place. The benefit to the donors of these lots came in the way of the "unearned increment," which attached to the great holdings of the proprietors of the town. Business property, as a matter of course, constitutes the greatest value, and there was nothing remaining unsold on Lincoln avenue belonging to Wright & Mendenhall.

At this time, and under these conditions, the proprietors of the town, and still owners of practically all the property on Bismark avenue, commenced to carry into effect the scheme which had doubtless been their intention from the beginning. That scheme was to make Bismark avenue the business street of the town.

When this object became manifest, it is not at all strange that the men who had invested all they possessed on Lincoln avenue should look with alarm on such a project. They had struggled along for years; withstood the ravages of grasshopper raids and other hardships incident to the pioneer, and the calamity which now threatened was the most disastrous of all.

There had been, from time to time, rumors in the air that such a move was the intention of George B. Wright, but these rumors were said, by the "Wright faction," to have originated in the fevered brain of the "Austin faction," and were the vagaries and hallucinations of a turbulent opposition. When it was not long, the time came, before the people realized that the rumors had actually come true.

The first move to make Bismark avenue the business street of the town and to enhance the value of the Wright's holdings was the erection of a large, three-story brick block, with a seventy-five foot frontage on Bismark avenue, and about one hundred and twenty-five feet on Cascade street, with fine store rooms in the first story. Across Bismark avenue from this brick block, a nephew of George B. Wright erected a large brick hotel. Other friends of Mr. Wright's were induced to construct fine brick buildings on Bismark avenue between Mill and Cascade streets, all containing rooms for stores in the lower story.

In addition to these, Mr. Wright excavated for a large hotel at the corner of Bismark avenue and Cascade street, across from his brick block. About this time the local agents of William Taylor and other Scotch capital-

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ists commenced the erection of the Grand Hotel on Lincoln avenue and Vine street in the western part of the town. This was a three-story, modern, brick hotel, in which was invested about one hundred thousand dollars. The influence of these capitalists, to enhance their investments in the western part of the town on the north side of the river, procured the removal of the Great Northern Railroad passenger station from the south side of the river, west to Vine street, which location was quite to one side of the town, not far from the Grand hotel.

These circumstances, together with the death of Mr. Wright in 1882, changed the aspect of the situation, and ended any successful attempt at making Bismark avenue the main business street of Fergus Falls.

The investments so made on Bismark avenue all proved unremunerative. About four years ago, the large brick block erected by Mr. Wright, as a cost of some thirty-five thousand dollars, sold for the sum of ten thousand dollars. The Stanford block on Bismark avenue, resulted in the bankruptcy of its builders, and it is safe to say that none of these investments ever paid a living interest on the original cost.

The climax of this growth reached its height in 1883 when the total amount of improvements in business blocks and dwellings went far beyond the half million mark. No less than eight large building blocks were erected during that year; the city started work on the waterworks plant to cost ninety thousand dollars, and a gas plant, to cost thirty-eight thousand dollars. Nor were manufacturing interests neglected, as may be seen by a fifty-thousand-dollar paper mill which arose along the banks of Red river. This plant, by the way, is now occupied by the Fergus Manufacturing Company. The present city hall was built in this year, at a cost of eight thousand six hundred dollars. The following table, which appeared in the *Fergus Falls Weekly Journal* in its issue of November 13, 1883, gives a list of the largest building projected that year. This totals six hundred twenty-two thousand nine hundred dollars for the year, and this amount does not include numerous smaller dwellings or additions to residence and business buildings already standing. The table follows:

Waterworks	$90,000	Austin block	8,000
Paper mill	50,000	Hoyt block	7,000
Gas works	38,000	Stanford block	7,000
Pickit block	35,000	Holmes residence	7,000
Clement & Wright block	16,000	Aberle brewery	6,000
Chase block	15,000	C. O. Wheeler residence	5,000
Masonic block	13,000	W. H. Cowing residence	5,000
Methodist church	9,000	A. L. Cole residence	4,000
Jacob Austin residence	9,000	Davenport residence	4,000
City hall	8,600	B. A. Clark residence	4,000
J. P. Williams block	8,000	C. J. Sawbridge residence	4,000

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Denison residence	3,500	George Waters double residence	1,400
L. L. Baxter double residence	2,500	Steve Lee residence	1,200
J. H. Allen residence	2,500	Erick Nelson residence	1,200
Jacob Nelson residence	2,000		

It is not possible to trace the growth of the city from year to year since 1883 as shown by the number of buildings erected. It may be said, however, that since 1883 there has been practically no business blocks erected on Bismark avenue and that the threatened removal of the business center from Lincoln to Bismark avenue died with the man who conceived it. Since 1900 a large number of fine business blocks have been built on Lincoln avenue. The south side of Lincoln from Cascade to Court street is lined with brick buildings, with only two frame buildings in the two blocks. The north side of the street, for the same distance, has only one frame building on it. Some of the most notable buildings since 1900 in the city are the following: Fergus Falls National Bank, Kaddatz hotel, Federal building, Wright Memorial hospital, Elks Home, Methodist church and the Red River Rolling Mills.

While it is true that building operations in 1883 reached mammoth proportions yet the past year (1915) witnessed a growth which comes the nearest of rivaling it. In fact, during the past three years there have been more residences built in Fergus Falls than in any other period of the same duration. Several firms of contractors have been kept busy all the time, and new dwellings have appeared in every part of town, almost as if by magic. All this building is not a speculative flurry, but has been demanded by the steady increase of population and the fact that suitable houses for rent or purchase were entirely out of the market. Few people, even among those who live here, are fully aware of the great amount of building that has been done. The best year of the past three was 1915, and its figures are sufficiently significant. Up to December, one hundred and forty odd building permits had been issued since the building season opened, which increased to about one hundred and fifty by January 1. An even hundred of these were issued for new dwellings, most of them costing from three thousand dollars to five thousand dollars each. There were in addition a number of business blocks and factories erected during the year. The building statistics of 1915 in Fergus Falls totaled a half million dollars or more.

MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS.

As has been previously stated, the legislative act of March 3, 1881, marks the beginning of the period of Fergus Falls as a city. The charter was a lengthy municipal law covering twenty-four pages on the statutes. (Special Laws, Minnesota, 1881, pp. 81-105). The elective officers as provided by the original charter include the mayor, clerk, treasurer, assessor, two justices of the peace, two aldermen from each ward, and also a constable

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from each ward. All of these officers except the aldermen, justices and constables were elected for one year only, the others holding offices for two years. The first election was held April 1, 1881. The village council had previously divided the village into three wards. The summary of the first city election in Fergus Falls is as follows:

For mayor—John H. Allen, 248; Jacob Austin, 196. Clerk—W. Y. Smith, 227; F. W. Burnham, 211. Treasurer, C. D. Wright, 442. Assessor, Sanford Shoemaker, 234; M. V. Austin, 201. Aldermen—First ward, Irving Gage 113, J. D. Boyd 78; second ward, M. J. Morrill 140, G. W. Boyington 144; third ward, none elected.

The constables elected were as follow: A. A. Heusby, first ward; W. D. Hunter, second ward; John Fhyri, third ward. At the first meeting of the city council, A. Brandenberg and K. O. Harris were declared elected from the third ward. At this meeting Mayor Allen appointed D. Sullivan as chief of police, but it was not until the following week that S. Diamond was appointed a patrolman. At the meeting of the city council on April 11, the council had a long fight on the selection of the city attorney. The three candidates were J. W. Mason, E. M. Wright and H. E. Rawson. The voting started out with each candidate getting two votes, but it seemed to be a hard proposition to decide between the men. No less than fifty-eight votes were taken by the council before Mr. Mason was declared elected. George A. Burbank was appointed city engineer.

It does not appear to have occurred to the citizens that the fact that Allen held a position in the government land office at Fergus Falls would debar him from the office of mayor. As soon as the government officials found out that he had been elected mayor, they notified him that he would have to resign his position in the land office if he wished to retain his office as mayor. Since the land office position furnished him the means of a livelihood, which the mayor's office did not, he promptly resigned the latter position. A special election was held at once and John W. Mason was elected. Mr. Mason was installed as mayor May 7, 1881. It appears that John D. Boyd presided as acting mayor for the two preceding sessions. Thus Mr. Mason became in reality the first mayor of the city of Fergus Falls.

It is not possible to go into detail with a history of the thirty-four annual mayoralty campaigns from 1882 to 1916, inclusive. Some of them have been marked by bitter fights, but most of them have been reasonably pacific. National politics have very seldom entered into the contest, the issues on which the candidates have stood have pertained strictly to local conditions. During the days when "license" or "no license" was the question there was probably more acrimony shown than at any other time. About thirty years ago (April 5, 1887) there was a big fight on the licensing

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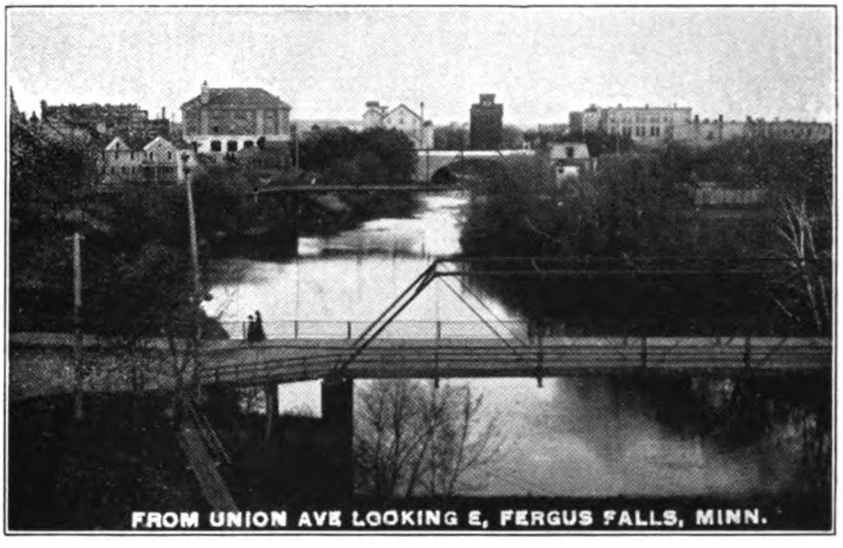
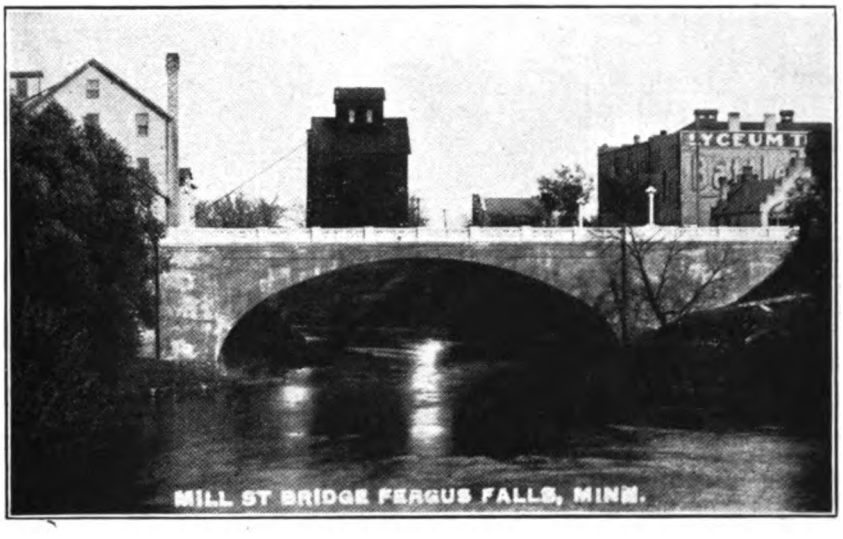


UNION AVENUE BRIDGE, WHERE FIRST BRIDGE WAS LOCATED.



BUILT FOR BEAUTY AS WELL AS PERMANENCE.

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of saloons which resulted in a vote of five hundred and forty-two for the saloons and three hundred and thirty-two against them. On this same date as issue of railroad bonds was authorized by a vote of four hundred and forty to one hundred. This campaign of 1887 appears to have been featured by a very exciting race for mayor, a story told elsewhere in this volume in detail. Jacob Austin defeated J. A. Brown by one vote, the final result showing four hundred and forty-five for Austin and four hundred and forty-four for Brown. The complete list of the mayors of Fergus Falls from 1881 to 1916 follows (the change in office taking place each year in April): John H. Allen, April, 1881; John W. Mason, May, 1881 to April, 1882; Robert Miller, 1882-83; Henry G. Page, 1883-85; C. D. Wright, 1885-87; Jacob Austin, 1887-88; H. E. Rawson, 1888-89; J. W. Earl, 1889-91; A. B. Cole, 1891-93; John W. Mason, 1893-94; T. N. McLean, 1894-96; C. L. Baxter, 1896-99; Frank J. Pfefferle, 1899-1901; M. T. McMahon, 1901-03; E. J. Webber, 1903-05; John L. Townley, 1905-07; H. T. Hille, 1907-09; John L. Townley, 1909-10; D. M. Brown, 1910-11; A. G. Anderson, 1911-12; Erick T. Nelson, 1912-13; W. H. McBride, 1912-14; A. B. Cole, 1914-16; Leonard Eriksson, took office April 11, 1916.

CHARTERS OF THE CITY OF FERGUS FALLS.

The first charter of Fergus Falls, which was granted by the Legislature on March 3, 1881, was supplanted two years later (March 6, 1883) by a new charter. This second charter, drawn by John W. Mason, who had just served as the first mayor of the city, went into detail concerning all phases of the city's government. It covers no less than sixty-two pages in the Laws of Minnesota, 1883, and was one of the most comprehensive city charters which the legislature had granted up to that time. This charter with sundry amendments remained in force until 1903. The first amendment to the charter was approved by the Legislature, March 4, 1885. This act dealt chiefly with the re-districting of the city into the different wards, the appointment of the city assessor, the bids of the bank for the use of the city's surplus money and the requirement of the city treasurer to make bi-monthly statements. These were the main changes, although there were a few minor ones.

An act approved March 15, 1889, prescribed the duties of the city assessor and also fixed his salary. Another act of the same date divided the first ward into two wards. Another act of this Legislature gave the city council the right to appropriate money for the best interest of the city to aid in the development of the water power of Red river within the city limits. It provided that the management of such an undertaking should be entrusted to the chamber of commerce of the city or to a special board

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of trustees created by the city. Nothing appears to have been done toward taking advantage of this act.

The government of the city since 1903 has been based upon the home-rule charter adopted in March of that year. This charter was drawn by a charter commission appointed by the district judge, the members of the commission being as follow: John W. Mason (president of the commission), William L. Parsons, Frank J. Evans, John H. Grass, E. J. Webber, A. Brandenburg, J. O. Barke, W. P. Bayley, John F. Nangle, Haldor E. Boen, Elmer E. Adams, E. E. Corliss, Charles D. Wright and Chauncey L. Baxter. All of the committee signed the report to the mayor with the exception of Haldor E. Boen, who refused to attach his signature for the reason that certain socialistic provisions were not approved by the commission.

This commission was appointed by the district judge on July 1, 1902, and drafted a charter for the city in accordance with the provision of chapter 351, General Laws of Minnesota, 1899. The charter is what is known as a home rule charter, and is a flexible instrument which allows the city to draw its own ordinances and laws, the only limitation being that they do not conflict with the constitution or laws of the state. The original draft of this charter was made by the president, John W. Mason, after which it was submitted to the commission for their approval and was duly approved by its members on December 26, 1902. The charter was later ratified by vote of the people of the city.

GAS AND WATERWORKS.

The history of artificial gas in Fergus Falls may be briefly told. In the spring of 1883 an eastern promoter by the name of Carroll E. Gray came to Fergus Falls with sufficient financial backing to establish a gas and waterworks plant in the city. He had little difficulty in inducing the city council to grant him a franchise, and the ordinance of April 19, 1883, marks the beginning of the gas and waterworks history of the city. This ordinance granted to Carroll E. Gray, his associates or assigns, certain privilege for the purpose of "establishing, maintaining and operating gas and waterworks in the city of Fergus Falls." The promoter immediately began to install the waterworks plant, but did not receive sufficient encouragement to proceed with the gas plant. In the fall of the same year Gray disposed of his gas franchise, and an ordinance of the city, passed September 14, 1883, sets forth that Gray had transferred his right to establish a gas plant to the Fergus Falls Gas and Mill Company. This new company was composed of two local capitalists, C. D. Wright and F. W. Burnham, and three of Minneapolis, A. T. Rand, Samuel Hill and J. W Griffin. The company built a gas plant on the banks of Red river where it was crossed by the Northern Pacific railroad, laid their mains in the fall of the same year and

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continued to manufacture gas until the latter part of the eighties. They installed street lights and a number of private consumers also had their houses piped for lighting purposes. Shortly after the electric light plant of 1887 went into operation, the use of gas was discontinued. The old gas plant is now occupied by a broom factory.

As has been stated, Gray retained the water franchise in 1883. He disposed of his interest in the company which he represented to N. W. Littlejohn in October, 1889. None of the capital in the water company was owned in the city. Littlejohn, as local representative of the eastern capitalists, continued in charge of the waterworks until May, 1894. At that time the company passed into the hands of the receiver, and the court appointed C. D. Wright to take charge of the affairs of the company. Mr. Wright continued as receiver of the company from 1894 to December 16, 1895. During the latter part of this period the bondholders were endeavoring to reorganize the company, but it was not until December 18, 1895, that they took charge of its affairs. It was in the hands of the bondholders from that date until November 5, 1896, at which time the Fergus Falls Waterworks Company, which had been recently organized, with C. D. Wright as president, assumed control of the waterworks. Mr. Wright was the only local stockholder in the company. This latter company operated the plant until it was sold to the city, February 25, 1907, for the sum of seventy-seven thousand dollars.

The experience of the city in handling the plant has not been as satisfactory as it might have been. As soon as it was purchased, the city issued bonds payable within twenty years to cover the indebtedness, and in 1913 additional bonds to the amount of fifty-five thousand dollars were issued for repairs and additions to the system. The Hoot lake project, which was put into operation in 1914, has given the city one of the best methods of supplying an abundance of water to be found any place in the state. The Hoot lake project is explained under the discussion of the Otter Tail Power Company, with which company the city has an agreement to furnish the water for distribution. The city owns its own mains, pumping station and a concrete reservoir on top of the Spickerman hill, which has a capacity of seven hundred and fifty thousand gallons. The top of this hill is on a level with the top of the state hospital, and thus permits of the distribution of water over the city by the gravity system.

The city has a unique system of distributing water. The pumping station is at the intake, a mile and a half up the river from the city. According to the present arrangement the pumping can be done either by steam or electricity. It is possible, during part of the year, to operate the pumps only eight hours a day and yet during this time there will not only be suffici-

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ent water pumped over the city, but at the same time an amount will be pumped into the reservoir sufficient to supply the city for the remaining sixteen hours of the day. The city has had a flat rate since it took charge of the plant until the present time, but it is now making arrangements to install meters. At this writing (April, 1916), there are a number of meters in use and the city is trying to determine the average amount of water used by their consumers in order to establish just and equitable water rates. The city has eighty-nine hydrants, so placed over the city as to provide ample fire protection for all sections of the corporation. At this point may be given a brief history of the fire department of the city.

FIRE DEPARTMENT OF FERGUS FALLS.

Fergus Falls is fortunate in many ways, but there is no department of its municipal affairs which fits in so readily with the natural topography of the location of the city as does the fire department. With the river running in various directions through the city, up, down and across its limits, with a large lake in nearly the center of the corporation, with adjoining hills on which reservoirs may be advantageously placed, no city lends itself so readily to fire protection more easily. Back in the seventies, when a stiff breeze might have burned the whole village to the ground in an hour or two, George B. Wright installed a fire pump at his dam, In the latter part of the seventies the village purchased a hand drawn engine, but it does not appear to have been of much value for protection.

Hardly had the village been incorporated in 1871 when a volunteer fire brigade sprang into existence, the progenitor of the present volunteer system. One of the first ordinances of the city, passed April 19, 1881, established fire limits and prohibited frame buildings from a certain district. In August, 1882, the city purchased a Silsby fire engine and two hose carts, together with one thousand feet of hose, the total expenditure amounting to five thousand one hundred and fifty dollars. The *Fergus Falls Journal*, in its issue of August 22, 1882, rejoiced in the beauty of the new "steamer," as it called the new fire engine. "Our property owners will welcome this new visitor and then with the old fire pump at Wright's dam we shall have two first-class engines for prompt use in the business portion of the city. The new steamer can be drawn anywhere with the aid of a pair of good horses and can throw water from any well, cistern, lake or slough to the top of any sized building."

This same engine is still in use by the city. It has been r[illegible] in recent years by adding a Fox boiler at a cost of one thousand one hundred dollars. In 1909 the city purchased a combination chemical engine and hose wagon at a cost of one thousand two hundred dollars. The engine always carries a forty-gallon supply of a mixture which has proved very

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efficient in extinguishing fires. This chemical is a combination of bicarbonate of soda, sulphuric acid and water. It is estimated by the present fire chief that at least sixty per cent. of the fires are extinguished by the chemical engine. In addition to the two engines the city has four hose carts, a hook and ladder wagon with a fifty-foot extension ladder, three thousand feet of hose, a sleigh for the use of the chemical engine during the winter and, finally, a recent purchase, a lung motor. Very few people have been drowned in the river or lake, but it was felt that the city should own such an instrument for use in any possible contingency. It cost one hundred and fifty dollars. All of the fire equipment is stored in the city hall on north Mill street.

The fire department is a volunteer organization of twenty-seven men. This includes the chief, an engine company of six and two hose companies of ten men each. Durkee Prentiss, the present chief of the fire department, who has held this position for the past six years, has been connected with the department for the past seventeen years. In addition to these twenty-seven men, the city employs a driver for the engine. The driver, John Harry, receives a salary of one hundred dollars per month. He furnishes his own team, which, when not in use by the fire department, is employed on the streets. The driver gives all of his time to the city, the only man connected with the department in any capacity who is employed all the time. The fire chief receives a salary of seventeen dollars and fifty cents per month and the engineer twelve dollars a month. The firemen receive pay for only such fires as they attend. They are allowed one dollar for the first hour's attendance at a fire and in the day time they receive fifty cents for each additional hour; at night they receive seventy-five cents for each hour after the first. Arrangements are made in the city hall for sleeping quarters for six men, but ordinarily only four men sleep there. In case of fire the alarm is sent to the central telephone station and the chief operator then, by an ingenious arrangement, presses a button which sends an electric current to the city hall. This electric discharge releases a weight attached to the bell, thereby starting the latter to ringing. The firemen on hearing the fire bell run to the nearest telephone to inquire of central where the fire is located. Then they either report to the city hall or go direct to the fire. The service on the part of the telephone company is gratuitous.

The last published report of the city fire department to the state fire department shows that there were thirty fires last year, with a total loss of $13,710.67. The insurance premiums paid amounted to $41,044.31; two per cent. of this amount went into the relief fund—a total of $820.89. The cost of the department to the city was $960. Fergus Falls has never been visited with a devastating fire such as has swept so many other cities in the

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state. Not a life has ever been lost by a fire in the city and not as many as two adjoining dwellings have ever been burned at the same time. The heaviest loss sustained at any one fire was occasioned by the burning of the Red River Roller Mills on March 10, 1915, the insurance in this fire amounting to $64,000. Probably the most threatening fire was the one which burned all the buildings on the corner of Lincoln and Court in 1910. At that time a book store, two saloons, a millinery store and a grocery store were burned. One of the hottest fires was the casket factory fire of 1902. Among the fires of note may be mentioned the two high school buildings, Methodist church, Northern Pacific station, Occidental hotel, the H. G. Page flouring-mill, the saw-mill of George B. Wright and the fire of February 12, 1913, when Hunt's cigar factory and the grocery store of John Meyer were consumed.

ELECTRICITY IN FERGUS FALLS.

The first system of electric lighting in Fergus Falls was installed in the spring of 1882 by George B. Wright, James W. Griffin and C. D. Wright. Those three men took out incorporation articles February 1, 1882, and gave to Fergus Falls its first electric light under the name of the Fergus Brush Electric Company. The company secured a man by the name of Brockway from Cleveland, Ohio, where the company making the Brush dynamo was established. Brockway installed the plant for the local company at the old Wright power dam between Mill and Cascade streets. This first company was organized in the days before the incandescent light was invented. The only light in use was the carbon arc light. There were only twelve consumers in the whole city of Fergus Falls, and these were all business houses. These old-fashioned carbon lights were supposed to furnish two thousand candle power, but whether they did or not the electrical history of the city fails to record. This company discontinued its plant when the manufacture of gas was started in 1884.

The second electric light company in Fergus Falls was organized in 1887, nearly thirty years ago. On May 26, 1887, the city granted a franchise to Charles L. Lewis, F. G. Barrows and James Compton "to erect such buildings, machinery and apparatus, within the corporate limits of the city, as may be necessary for producing electricity for the purposes of heating, lighting and furnishing power, and the exclusive permission and authority, for the period of seven years from and after the passage of this ordinance."

The company agreed to furnish lights to the city for street lighting at the rate of three dollars per thirty-candle-power light per month for all-night service if the city would take at least twenty-five lights; lights of the same power would be furnished merchants at the following rates: From dark until midnight, two dollars per month; from dark until ten o'clock, one

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dollar and seventy-five cents per month; from dark until nine o'clock, one dollar and fifty cents per month. Residence light rates were fixed at one dollar and a half per month. Midnight service, for thirty-candle-power lights. The plant was installed during the summer of 1887 and stood on Mill street near the north Pennsylvania tracks. In the fall of the same year (August 8, 1887) Lewis, Compton and Barrows disposed of their plant to the Fergus Falls Electric Light and Power Company. This new company was composed of the same men, who started the plant in the spring. Evidently the franchise was not very profitable to the owners, since less than two years later it changed hands again. On March 15, 1889, the Fergus Falls Electric Light and Power Company sold all their rights and interests in the franchise to the Fergus Falls Gas and Mill Company. This new company had obtained a franchise on September 14, 1883, for the purpose of maintaining and operating the gas plant in the city, but the venture had not proved successful. The citizens did not seem to care to invest in gas for lighting and heating as long as kerosene and wood remained as cheap as they then were. For this reason the gas company took over the electric light franchise and installed the power house in their plant where they had been manufacturing gas. This building, which stood on the north bank of Red river where the Northern Pacific crosses it, is now occupied by a broom factory. The new company continued to supply the city with electric service until 1895 when the city, during the administration of Mayor McLean, established a municipal plant. The city plant stood above the city at the old Page dam. The city continued to maintain its own electric light and power system until 1910, when its dam was destroyed. This dam, which had just been constructed at a cost of fifty thousand dollars, was torn out within nine months after it was completed, and for several months the city was without electricity. Then followed a long discussion in the papers, on the streets and wherever citizens congregated, as to whether the city should rebuild its plant or enter into an agreement with a private company to furnish electric light and power. At this place in the history of electric service in Fergus Falls begins the history of the Otter Tail Power Company.

THE OTTER TAIL POWER COMPANY.

From the earliest days of the settlement of Fergus Falls, the water powers which are distributed along the river for several miles above and below the town, were looked upon as a certain source of future growth and prosperity. For years no special edition of the newspapers was gotten up to set forth the superior attractions of Fergus Falls without giving space to the well known pictures of the old wooden dams which supplied power for the village industries in the day time and kept awake the unaccustomed visitor by their ceaseless roaring in the stillness of the country nights. The

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long period of depression which followed the boom days of the early eighties never quite destroyed the faith that the water powers would sometime help to make Fergus Falls an important city. The water powers could not get away even if some of the population did. And in the end the people who stayed were right; for the population came back and the permanent development of the water powers was at last begun.

In 1907 the Otter Tail Power Company was organized by Vernon A. Wright, the son of George B. Wright, and F. G. Barrows, widely known in Fergus Falls and vicinity through an extensive loan business. Mr. Wright became the active head of the company, taking charge of the engineering work and business development, while Mr. Barrows, through his wide acquaintance and business connections, acted as financial agent. A concrete dam, which produced a head of thirty-six feet and developed two thousand horse-power, was completed at Dayton Hollow, five miles below the city, early in 1909. At that time the transmission of electric power over long distance was just beginning in Minnesota. The company commenced operations with the single city of Wahpeton, North Dakota as a market for power, a transmission line having been built to that city while the construction of the dam was in progress.

Although the power from the Dayton Hollow dam was not immediately used in Fergus Falls, the project was nevertheless a distinctly Fergus Falls enterprise. The contractor, John Lauritzen, who built the dam, had from small beginnings developed a business which was by that time extended over Minnesota and the neighboring States. The capital used in the development of the water power was nearly all raised in Fergus Falls, being partly supplied by the organizers of the company and partly by local subscribers who then showed and have since continued to show their confidence in the electric power industry by taking freely all the securities offered by the company to carry out their projects.

At the same time that the Dayton Hollow dam was being built, the city of Fergus Falls was constructing a dam on the site of the old Page mill and a dam about three miles above the city. The mill had burned several years earlier after a varied and unfortunate history, and the city had bought and was using the dam for an electric power plant. Through some cause, which future litigation never was entirely able to clear up, the new city dam, after nearly a year of operation, suddenly failed without warning early in the morning of September 24, 1909, giving the attendants barely time to escape from the power house. One remarkable theory which gained some circulation and credence through the efforts of the well-known socialist editor, Haldor E. Boen, was that the dam came to its destruction at the hands of Mr. Wright, who was alleged to have floated down stream in a

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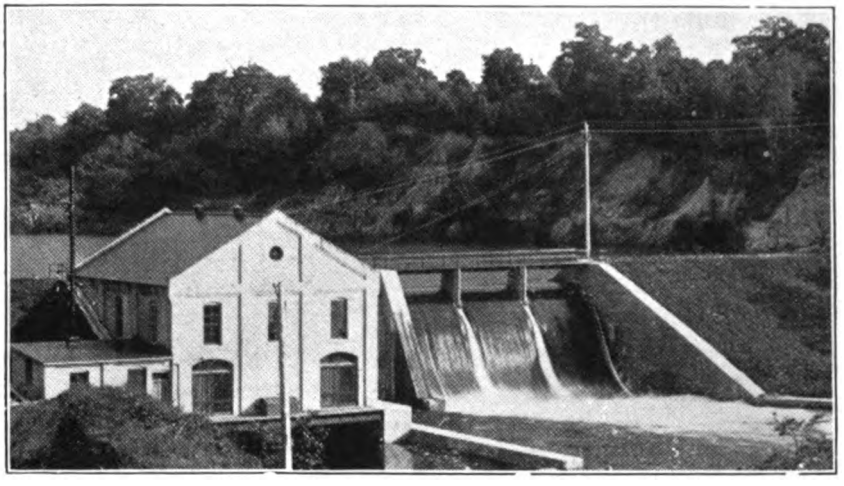
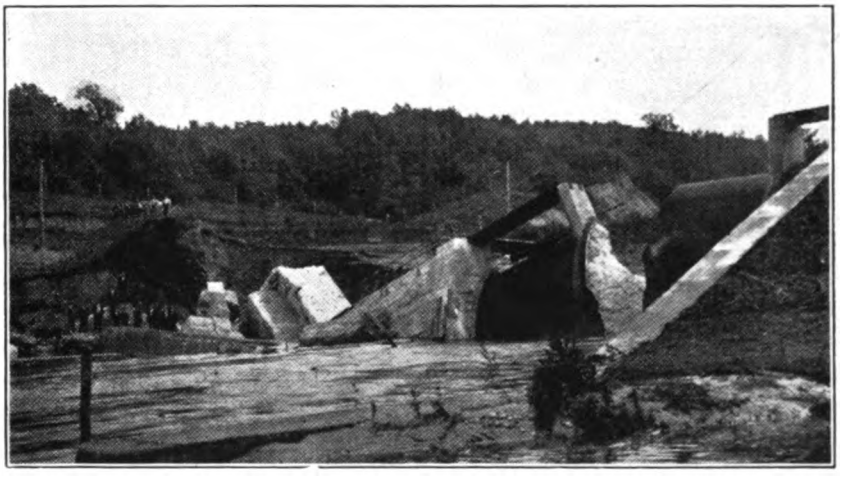


CITY POWER HOUSE AND DAM, BEFORE THEIR DESTRUCTION.



CITY DAM, AFTER ITS DESTRUCTION. POWER HOUSE DISAPPEARED ENTIRELY.

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boat loaded with quicksilver, which he distributed above the dam and which worked down and finally undercut the foundations. This period of Fergus Falls history was well supplied with local disturbances. Personalities formed the ordinary ammunition of controversy and Mr. Boen usually took a prominent part. The failure of the city dam was quickly followed by an extension of the transmission system of the Otter Tail Power Company into the city and, after much labor and distress, a contract was agreed upon under which the city was to purchase current from the company for a term of seven and a half years.

The site of the city dam was now occupied by ruins. Should the city rebuild at the expiration of the contract with the power company? The municipal ownership party thought one way and their opponents thought the other way. In the meantime Mr. Wright of the power company discovered and laid before the citizens a project for a new development which increased ten-fold the tension between the parties. Mr. Wright showed that there existed a remarkable natural condition which would permit of a seventy-foot water power development. The river makes a loop twelve miles long above the city. The new project was to divert the river from its natural channel and carry it through a system of canals and tunnels across the neck of the loop, a distance of only about two and a half miles, and discharge it again into the river at a point a little above the city. Just in the neck of the loop was located a small pond, known as Hoot lake, and thus the project came to be known as the Hoot lake project. But the city damsite was located on the loop from which the water was to be diverted. If the Hoot Lake Project was carried out, the city damsite would have to be abandoned as there would be left only a little water in channel at that point. A controversy immediately arose and was continued for many weeks. Out of it emerged a new contract which, in turn, became the subject of a campaign which lasted till the election in April, 1912.

It is to the credit of both parties that the controversy was waged on a basis of the principles involved, though by no means free from a liberal admixture of personalities. Arguments, social, political and commercial, were urged on the streets and at mass meetings which taxed the capacity of the Lyceum theater. The newspapers occupied themselves in expressing their own views and those of their correspondents among whom the pen of J. H. Durrell, veteran journalist, newly come to Fergus Falls, was probably the most active. But at no time was there any suggestion of the employment of corrupt methods. The promoters, after fully launching their project through the columns of the *Fergus Falls Journal*, took no part in the discussions, but left the city and remained away until after the spring election. At this election the project was ratified by a heavy majority.

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Even after the voters had declared in its favor, the way of the project was by no means smooth. The summer of 1912 saw the work delayed, while one of the hardest-fought legal battles in the history of the county was under way. The right to divert the water from the channel of the river was contested by one of the abutting owners, Edward A. Brastad, who owned nearly a mile of frontage on the river. The court records will show no more thorough-going example of litigious persistency. Tiring out one lawyer after another, and beaten at every turn, Mr. Brastad showed true sporting qualities and refused to quit. All suggestions of compromise made by the company were ignored and none was advanced by him. The case in one form or another was passed upon by the courts five times and reached its final decision by the supreme court of the state only in 1914.

In the meantime the company was under contract to carry out the new power development. Without waiting for a final decision of the Brastad case, construction was begun early in 1913 and the work carried to substantial completion during the year. New transmisison lines were also built toward the south and west covering an area of approximately two thousand square miles and including twenty villages and cities.

Thus the water powers of Fergus Falls have at last come into their own and electric energy "Made in Fergus Falls" is now one of the best known products of the city. The future development of the industry seems assured. There remain several undeveloped power sites and a few years will probably see them all improved and the energy so long wasted finally brought into service.

POLICE DEPARTMENT.

The police department is under the direct supervision of the mayor, who appoints the chief of police and patrolmen. The present chief of police is Allen H. Johnson, who was appointed by Mayor Leonard Eriksson when the latter assumed office on April 11, 1916. There are two patrolmen, Judson Burton and Joseph Holt.

STREETS, SIDEWALKS, BRIDGES, SEWERAGE, PARKS, ETC.

The city of Fergus Falls has about twenty miles of streets within its limits. Most of these are graveled, but it is the intention of the present administration to take up the question of paving at least two streets, Lincoln avenue between Cascade and Vine streets, and Mill street between the two railroad tracks. In order to do this it is proposed to amend the city charter so that payments for paving may be distributed over a period of years. A bond issue will also have to be voted before the work can commence. It is universally conceded that the main streets of the city should be paved, but the council has never felt the city was in shape to start the work. Before any paving is done it will be necessary to relay some of the

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water mains and this will entail no small amount of expenditure on the part of the city, since it owns the waterworks system. However, it is safe to say that within the next five years Fergus Falls will have its first paved streets.

There are now fourteen miles of sidewalks, practically all of which are of cement construction. There are still a few boardwalks in various parts of the city, but these are being rapidly replaced with cement walks. The city maintains five bridges across the Red river, and they constitute no small factor in the annual budget. The last bridge constructed, the one across Mill street, cost the city nine thousand dollars. The railroad companies built the three bridges across their tracks and the city is put to no expense for their maintenance.

The city is covered with a fairly complete system of sewerage mains, and they are being extended as they are needed. All the sewerage is emptied into Red river below the intake. No provision has yet been made by the city for municipal collection of garbage, the disposition of garbage being left to the individual householders.

The city owns a park area of twenty acres and is now contemplating the purchase of a ten-acre tract adjoining the fair grounds for park purposes. There is a small park adjoining each railroad station, both of which are owned by the railroad companies, but maintained by the city. The city relieves the companies of the burden of paying the tax on the two tracts. Probably the most popular park in the city is the athletic park, commonly known as the public play ground, which is located on north Vine street.

CARE OF THE POOR.

Fergus Falls is not unlike all other communities in having the question of poor relief to handle. From the early history of the village provisions have been made to care for the unfortunate. The Legislature has passed various statutes which furnish the financial basis for the relief of the poor, but there are many organizations which assist the local authorities in caring for the families dependent upon public relief. The largest demands upon the poor fund are naturally made during the winter season. The disposition of the poor funds now devolves upon Mr. Steve Butler, who is superintendent of poor fund. He not only examines all cases where it is proposed to extend relief, but also runs a kind of an employment bureau. He makes efforts to secure work for those who are able to work. He solicits contributions of cast-off clothing and shoes and during the past year a large number of people of the city helped the cause of charity in this way. At one time Mr. Butler had nearly a room full of clothes, which he distributed among the poor, thereby avoiding the necessity of drawing upon the city's poor fund for purchasing clothes. During the winter people come to him

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almost daily and tell him they do not have a pound of coal or a stick of wood left and no money with which to buy it. Fuel has to be provided, as they could not be allowed to freeze. The demand for food was also unusually heavy during the winter of 1915-16.

The city has three people at the poor farm who are regular charges and owes the county about two hundred and twenty-five dollars for their maintenance. If this bill were paid it would more than wipe out the remainder of the poor fund. More money will be available in April.

The tax levy for the poor fund brought in about one thousand dollars the past year. The city has had several hospital bills to pay; it has four old people to be provided for in their homes here and it has three to be maintained throughout the year at the poor farm. In addition to the call for relief from numerous sources, especially during the winter, which means that the money in the fund has to be spread very thin. One colored man who was stricken with paralysis has been kept at one of the hospitals for about ten months and the city has recently been notified that it will have to assist in paying for his care. He was an industrious, hard-working man, but made an unfortunate investment shortly before he was stricken and lost practically all of his earnings. He may be a charge for years.

CITY FUNDS.

Cities are not unlike other business institutions; it takes money to keep them going. Probably no aspect of municipal government is as important as its method of assessing taxes and then expending them to the greatest benefit. Few citizens of Fergus Falls know where their taxes go, and still fewer have any idea how a dollar in taxes is apportioned among various funds. The average taxpayer pays his taxes and expects an obliging administration to spend his money in any way it chooses. For the benefit of those citizens who are interested in knowing something of the different city funds and the amount of money credited to them by the city treasurer in his last statement, the following table may be of interest: General fund, $3,135.49; permanent improvement revolving fund, $353.28; permanent improvement fund, $1,563.13; electric light fund, $5,622.79; electric light sinking fund, $241.68; water fund, $11,696.02; water sinking fund, $3,317.62; highway fund, $138.82; poor fund, $367.71; firemen's relief fund, $611.02; park fund, $322.06; total in all funds, $27,369.82.

FERGUS FALLS LIBRARY.

In nothing is the character of citizenship for culture and refinement more clearly determined than is manifested in their concern for the establishment and maintenance of a public library. Good schools and good school buildings, with modern equipments, are essential and necessary for the pro-

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per education of the young, but the educational facilities of a community are not complete without a good library, supplied with good literature, to which all of the citizens, both old and young, may have free access. It is to the credit of the citizens of Fergus Falls that have recognized this fact, not only in providing for good schools and modern school buildings with every modern appointment, but also in the early attention which they have given to the establishment of a public library.

As early as 1872 there was a circulating library established here under the supervision of George F. Cowing, superintendent of the public schools. There were only a few books in this library and the patronage was limited mostly to teachers and others interesting in the schools. Without any system in the distribution of books in this primitive library the books got into the hands of people who forgot to return them and in a short time the few volumes disappeared. In later years the pupils of the high school interested themselves in organizing a school library and reading room in the high school building. This was continued for some time aided by subscriptions from citizens.

What was really the first public library in Fergus Falls was established through the energy of F. A. Weld, then superintendent of the city schools, in 1890. Superintendent Weld induced the board of education to agree to give towards a public library as much money as could be raised by private fifty dollars in subscription, and, with this and a like amount from the board, the first installment of books was purchased. A library board was appointed, consisting of F. A. Weld, Dr. A. P. Williamson, W. C. Lincoln, Rev. C. C. Rollit and H. M. Wheelock. A room for the installment of the library was secured in the Washington building. This was the location of the library for some time. When this building was needed for other purposes the books in the library were removed to J. T. Johnson's drug store, where they remained for a few years. For two years prior to the time of the erection of a library building C. J. Sawbridge kept the books in his office and acted as librarian.

As the volumes increased in number, and the library increased in patronage and popularity, it became evident that a permanent library building was a necessity. Probably the first suggestion in public print of this necessity was made in *Wheelock's Weekly*, of March 17, 1898. In that paper it was stated that the number of books in the library was being increased from three to four hundred volumes per year, and the use which the public makes of the library is keeping pace with its growth; that the present library accommodations were wholly inadequate and that no other place that would be convenient to library patrons was available. If such a place could be obtained the rent would be high, and it would be a sensible business proposi-

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tion to erect a building for library purposes, as the amount paid in rent would more than pay interest on the investment. The writer says:

"The idea of erecting a library building is not visionary. It need not cost much at the beginning. Its requirements are modest ones. First, a central location is needed. Second, the building must be large enough to hold the books, with a probable increase for a number of years to come, and give space for a reading room in front. The building ought not to cost over fifteen hundred dollars."

This suggestion appealed to those interested as a sensible one, the only question was to how the money was to be secured to erect a building. As there was nothing in the way of a reserve fund, nor resources of any kind it fell upon the library board to devise ways and means by which the necessary fund could be secured. A soliciting committee, consisting of J. W. Mason, J. T. Johnson, E. J. Webber and F. D. Barrows, was appointed to make a canvass among the citizens for subscriptions to the building fund. This committee met with excellent success, about one thousand dollars was secured as a result of their efforts. This was not enough, however, but the subscription list obtained was sufficient to encourage the belief that success would be ultimately attained. One of the most valuable donations received by this committee was that of W. B. Dunnell, architect of the state hospitals, who donated a complete set of building plans and specifications for the building. The ladies of the city, who are always ready and resourceful in the aid of every good cause, took up the matter, after the energies of the first soliciting committee had lagged, somewhat, and supplemented the individual donations by a considerable fund secured by entertainments of various kinds. Mrs. C. J. Sawbridge and Mrs. J. W. Mason were leaders in this movement. They secured a committee of ladies as assistants, including Mrs. Dumble, Mrs. Hixon, Mrs. McLaughlin, Mrs. Metcalf, Mrs. Corliss, Mrs. McMahon, Mrs. Brandenberg, Mrs. W. R. Smith, Mrs. J. T. Johnson, Mrs. Strand, Mrs. F. J. Evans, Mrs. Parsons and Mrs. Hannah.

Notwithstanding all these combined efforts, the fall of 1898 found the necessary fund short of the required amount. In the following spring the library trustees, composed of Superintendent Vandyke, C. D. Wright, Parsons, Hilton and Wheelock, revived the project. With the assistance of C. C. Warfield, C. A. Daley and R. J. Angus, they obtained a renewal of the previous year's subscriptions and added a number of new names to the list.

The result of all these patriotic efforts was that, in the fall of 1899, it was found that enough money had been pledged to warrant letting the contract for the building. The contract was let to J. M. Herder. A site for the building was secured on the grounds of the Washington school. The building was completed and opened to the public in the early part of May, 1900.

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It was a frame building, ornamented with pillared entrance and carved doors and windows; the interior finished in oak; walls tinted in a deep terra cotta. The furnishings, tables, etc., were of oak to match the wood work. Everything in good taste, without attempt at anything showy—a library building of which the people of Fergus Falls of that time, or of any time, might justly feel proud. Miss Lillian Stringham was appointed librarian of the new library. A small fee was required for membership, and only members were entitled to the use of the books. It was the purpose of the board, eventually, to make the library free to all. The entire cost of the library was about eighteen hundred dollars.

THE CARNEGIE PUBLIC LIBRARY.

While the public library, established by the generous donations of the people of Fergus Falls, served a useful purpose and was a credit to the community, it did not measure up the ideals of a library such as would meet the requirements of the increasing population of the city. With a view of providing for the future needs and educational advantages of a growing city the people decided that something more substantial and permanent in the way of a library was demanded. With this idea in view an application was made by the library board to the Carnegie library foundation for a donation to aid in the erection of a permanent library. This application was made in 1903 and a donation of fifteen thousand dollars was granted, on the usual conditions that the city would furnish the ground on which to erect the building and provide for a permanent tax for the support and maintenance of the library. The requisite tax was readily voted by the citizens and the excavating for the building was begun in the fall of 1904.

At the solicitation of the board a number of plans were submitted by architects, that of Vernon A. Wright, of this city, being accepted. The work of superstructure was begun in the spring of 1905, and the building was completed and opened to the public January 24, 1906.

The foundation is of granite, solid, substantial and enduring. The walls are of light grey Roman brick, with Bedford stone trimmings. The roof is of red Spanish tile, and the building throughout is practically fireproof, the main interior walls being constructed of brick, and the floors of reinforced concrete. The design of the building is adapted to the site, being one story high in front and four stories in the rear, there being a considerable declivity in the back part of the lot on which the building is located. The building stands about the middle of the block, facing east, on Court street.

The interior of the building is in keeping with the substantial character of every portion of the library, and all the appointments are models of taste and convenience. Paneled wainscoting of Flemish oak extends to a height

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of six feet around the walls, and the adamant is finished in a light terra cotta, with a beamed ceiling above. The furniture is of the mission type, and is in keeping with the general finish.

Going down stairs, from the main floor, the visitor finds a small room used for library purposes. This is a sort of half-way story. Below this, and occupying almost an entire floor, is the assembly room, designed to accommodate public gatherings. There is an outside entrance to this room, on the north side of the building, so that visitors can enter without in any way disturbing those who may be in the reading room above. At the opening of the library it contained nearly three thousand volumes, with a capacity for many thousand more. A great many volumes have been added since the opening.

Miss Lillian Stringham, who was the librarian of the first library, continued to serve in this capacity in the new library. Her entire service as librarian in this city was about ten years. She was succeeded by Miss Amy A. Lewis, the present librarian, having held this position since 1910. The present library board is composed of the following: A. R. Kitts, president; Mrs. Robert Hannah, secretary; H. M. Wheelock, Joseph G. Norby, Mrs. C. J. Sawbridge, Miss Elsie Wright and Mrs. H. W. Bertesen.

From the last annual report of the librarian and board of directors, dated June 30, 1915, the following items are gleaned: Number of volumes in library at beginning of year, 5,089; number of volumes at the end of year, 5,499; number borrowers' cards in force this date, 2,331; total volumes loaned during the year, 18,162. Of these, 11,441 were to adults and 6,721 to children.

The financial statement is as follows: Balance on hand, July 1, 1914, $777.28; received from city tax levy, $1,895.85; from other sources, $112.53; total, $2,785.66. Total expenditure, $2,251.12. Balance on hand July 1, 1915, $534.54.

CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS OF FERGUS FALLS.

The Schumann Club.

The Schumann Club of Fergus Falls dates its organization from March, 1897, when twelve women of the city perfected arrangements for launching the club. This was not the first musical organization in the city. Some years before the Schumann Club came into existence there was an organization known as the St. Cecelia Society, the pioneer musical society of the city, which had been organized by Mrs. James A. Brown. The Schumann Club was in no sense an outgrowth of the St. Cecelia Society, the latter having been discontinued for some time before the organization of the present club. It is true that many of the members of the St. Cecelia Society were charter members of the Schumann Club.

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HIGH SCHOOL BUILDING, FERGUS FALLS.

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PUBLIC LIBRARY, FERGUS FALLS.

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The Schumann Club is essentially a musical organization and has never given particular attention to things historical, as is evidenced by the fact that none of the members seemed to be able to recall the names of the first twelve charter members of the club. The first records of the club are missing and the newspapers failed to chronicle the first meeting. It is known that the first president was Mrs. C. L. Hilton, and that Mrs. Elma Hixon Benton was secretary. The present officers are as follow: Mrs. John L. Townley, president; Mrs. E. Solem, first vice-president; Mrs. Fenwick Taylor, second vice-president; Florence Carlson, secretary; Agnes Hatch, treasurer; Mrs. Cyrus Beall, librarian.

The club gives combined musical and literary programs bi-weekly throughout the year. At each meeting some composer is discussed, and extracts from his work are given by one of the members. During the winter season two or three concerts are given by outside artists, and these special programs are always generously attended by the public at large. The regular programs of the club are held in the Presbyterian church and the room is frequently filled with the members of the club and invited guests. The membership now includes eighty-nine women of the city, and it is safe to say that no local organization is doing better work in its particular field. Well may Shakespeare say: "If music be the food of love, play on."

The Ljom Singing Society.

The oldest musical organization in the city of Fergus Falls and, doubtless, in Otter Tail county, is "Ljom Sangforening," which means Ljom Singing Society. It was organized January 27, 1883, with a membership of six: J. C. Knoff, B. Ertsgaard, J. Haakons, K. Rosenberg, O. B. Hanson and Mr. Lynne. A little later, in the same year, C. Gunerius, O. P. B. Jacobson, Henry Collins, Mr. Sparre, Mr. Bang, Mr. Bjorge and Mr. Solheim were admitted to membership, bringing the total up to thirteen. Mr. Lynne was the first leader, serving a few years, when Mr. Fremstad succeeded him. When Mr. Fremstad removed from Fergus Falls, Mr. Knoff acted as leader.

Ljom has had its ups and downs, but has never disbanded and has always stood high in the esteem of the people of Fergus Falls. It has always participated in the Sangerfests or song recitals given by the Norse singing societies of the Northwest and has compared favorably with similar organizations in this part of the country. Indeed, at the Sangerfest held at Sioux Falls, South Dakota, in 1910, Ljom was awarded a beautiful silver goblet.

Several members of Ljom were members of the great glee club of Norwegian-American singers which went to Norway in 1914 and sang at the centennial exposition in Christiania.

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Charles Gunerius and John Prestbo have been recent directors of Ljom, the latter serving eleven years with rare fidelity and ability. He was succeeded last winter by A. A. Aasen, who is an accomplished musician, and who is proving a worthy successor to Mr. Prestbo. The present membership of the society is over thirty, two of whom, J. C. Knoff and H. J. Collins, having been faithful members ever since the society was organized —a remarkable record.

Woman's Club of Fergus Falls.

The Woman's Club of Fergus Falls was organized in 1897 by Mrs. F. J. Evans, Mrs. F. G. Barrows, Mrs. C. L. Hilton, Mrs. H. M. Wheelock, Mrs. G. O. Welch and Mrs. W. O. Mann. Mrs. Welch was the first president, Mrs. Wheelock, vice-president, and Mrs. Mann, the first secretary. The club was organized for the purpose of general cultural work, and during the years it has been in existence it has engaged in the study of literature, painting, sculpture, architecture, sociology and kindred subjects. Starting out purely as a study club, it has maintained its high standard of work, and has stood for those things with the highest aesthetic value. During the past year the club has been studying the English drama. The membership now numbers twenty-seven. The officers for the current year are as follow: Mrs. Martin T. McMahon, president; Mrs. Charles Rolla Wright, vice-president; Mrs. W. L. Patterson, secretary; Gertrude Tennant, treasurer.

A sketch of the Woman's Club would not be complete without mentioning some of the special work which it has done during the past few years. Believing that it is more blessed to give than to receive, the club has done not a little philanthropic work in the city. It was directly responsible for the organization of the Town Improvement Society, which seeks to promote the civic welfare of the city. Each year the Woman's Club gives from ten to fifteen dollars' worth of reference books to the public library. For the past four years they have given from ten to forty dollars in prizes to the children for the best gardens. They have also been incidental in bringing to the city a most excellent exhibit of original paintings from the state art exhibit. And finally, whatever money the club has left over at the end of the year, and it is usually a very liberal sum, they give toward the relief of the unfortunate of the city.

Woman's Christian Temperance Union.

The Woman's Christian Temperance Union was organized August 5, 1896, at Fergus Falls. The charter members were Mrs. Amanda Butler, Mrs. B. B. Haugen, Mrs. Rhoda A. Way, Mrs. Martha Freeman, Mrs. J. O. Williams, Mrs. Mary Robertson, Mrs. Linda Perry, Thea Rudh, Lena Bjornaas, Mrs. Nancy Underwood and Maude Shave.

The first officers were: Mrs. Amanda Butler, president; Mrs. Bettie

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Haugan, vice-president; Mrs. Jane P. Williams, treasurer; Maude Shave, recording secretary. The present officers are Mrs. Myra Beers, president; Mrs. Amanda Butler, vice-president; Mrs. Josephine Eddy, corresponding secretary; Mrs. Rhoda A. Way, recording secretary; Mrs. Ida Nichols, treasurer.

The union at one time conducted a rest room but for lack of support it was closed. The present membership is forty-five. There was an organization of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union at one time previous to this with a large membership, but it gradually declined and finally disbanded. Mrs. Martha Freeman was president of that organization, and the meetings were held at the home of Mrs. Nancy Underwood; Mae Sue Underwood was secretary and Mrs. Jane P. Williams, treasurer.

The present union was organized by Mrs. Susanna Fay, a national organizer, and after Mrs. Freeman's death, was named "The Martha Freeman Union," in honor of one who was for many years a faithful member and an earnest worker, as well as one of the oldest members. It is the desire to keep her name in remembrance.

Chippewa Club.

The Chippewa Club of Fergus Falls was organized on January 20, 1902. The first officers were as follow: William L. Parsons, president; A. B. Cole, vice-president; Robert C. Lincoln, secretary; E. A. Jewett, treasurer. No capital stock was issued nor is any member liable for any of the obligations incurred by the corporation beyond the amount of membership fee of one dollar a month. The club is purely a social organization and during the winter season gives a series of dances for its members. Harry M. Wheelock is the president of the club.

Fergus Falls Commercial Club.

For more than thirty years there has been a continual effort on the part of the merchants of the city to have an organization of some kind which would have for its purpose the furthering of the interests of the city. In those early boom days of the eighties, shortly after the city began its career in 1881, there came into existence the Fergus Falls Board of Trade. This is not to be confused with the "bucket shops" of later years; it was a business organization of the merchants of the city and had nothing to do with the buying of grain.

The first organization of this kind in the city was held March 13, 1882, and at this initial meeting a constitution was adopted, officers elected and tentative plans discussed whereby the business interests of the city might be improved. James Compton presided at the meeting and J. D. Boyd acted as temporary secretary. After the adoption of a constitution the fol-

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lowing officers were elected: Robert Miller, president; Jacob Austin, first vice-president; James Compton, second vice-president; John W. Mason, third vice-president; Peter Claire, fourth vice-president; J. P. Kennedy, fifth vice-president; J. D. Boyd, secretary; C. D. Wright, treasurer. The board of directors included A. G. Tod, Moses E. Clapp, E. A. Jewett, C. J. Sawbridge, Horace Pickit, S. Shoemaker, Edwin M. Wright, E. C. Chapman, C. C. Clement, W. J. Hall, D. Bell, B. N. Johnson, W. D. Parkinson, J. W. Earl and P. McMaster.

It is not on record what definite results followed the organization of the Board of Trade, nor can it be ascertained how long it was in existence. This organization lapsed and others came in to take its place in after years. In fact, it is impossible to follow the devious path of the several such organizations which have come and gone since the initial effort of 1882. Not so many years ago there were two rival organizations in the city at the same time—chamber of commerce and a commercial club—but the city was not large enough to maintain both organizations. As a result of the divided efforts of these two rival organizations neither one was able to command the support of the citizens—and both died. For a short time the city was without a business men's organization, but in the falls of 1915 a number of interested citizens began to agitate the organization of a new commercial club on a new basis, and thus came into existence a club which proposes to bury all factional jealousies and work together in harmony for a better and bigger Fergus Falls.

The present Commercial Club of Fergus Falls had its inception at a meeting held at the Kaddatz hotel on October 28, 1915. The need of such an organization was manifested in a striking manner by the fact that about one hundred and forty men were present at this initial meeting. Mayor Cole presided and stated the purpose for which it was called. It was the unanimous opinion of those present that it was desirable to effect an organization of the business and professional men of the city for the purpose of looking after the general welfare of the city. Several men made short speeches and all advocated an organization of some kind looking to this end. A resolution was finally adopted authorizing the chairman to appoint a committee to prepare a constitution and by-laws, the committee to call a second meeting when a permanent organization should be effected. This committee consisted of A. R. Kitts, E. E. Adams, John Lauritzen, Roy Baker and G. C. Mantor.

The club was formally but temporarily organized at a meeting held on December 16, 1915, with the following officers: George W. Frankberg, president; John Lauritzen, vice-president; G. C. Mantor, secretary; F. J. Evans, treasurer. At this meeting there were not yet one hundred members

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on the roll and permanent organization was deferred until that number were obtained. By February 28, 1916, the required number had been secured, and the meeting on this date effected a permanent organization by electing all the officers selected at the time of the temporary organization with the exception of the treasurer. Adolph Boe was elected to this office instead of F. J. Evans. A board of fifteen directors was elected, consisting of the following: George W. Frankberg, A. G. Anderson, D. M. Brown, W. L. Robertson, John Lauritzen, M. Benson, J. G. Durrell, A. B. Cole, T. M. Alexander, Adolph Boe, A. R. Kitts, Ole Lee, Olaf Schei, J. S. Ulland and C. R. Wright.

This club, unlike all former organizations of a similar nature in the city, has sufficient funds at its disposal to do effective work. The membership fee is five dollars, with annual dues of twelve dollars. This insures a working fund and marks a radical difference between the club and previous organizations. With practically all the business and professional men of the city behind the movement there is no reason why this club should not be a power for good in the development of the city.

Town Improvement Society.

'Tis not every city in the state that can boast of a purely voluntary organization which has no other purpose than to help beautify its city. The city of Fergus Falls in 1911 saw the beginning of such an organization bearing the title of Town Improvement Society, or, to be brief, the T. I. S. This organization has enlisted the hearty support of more than two hundred members, who pay dues of twenty-five cents a year. Additional financial support is derived from benefactions and bequests from interested persons. Each member signs a pledge to (1) keep my own premises and the adjoining alley in a sanitary and orderly condition; (2) destroy weeds and waste papers; (3) throw no rubbish on vacant lots.

The society co-operates with the city park board in its work. Since it was organized, five years ago, it has expended an average of five hundred dollars a year on beautifying the city. Its greatest work, probably, has been in beautifying the banks of the river. In the spring of 1916 the society planted thirty-eight trees along the river banks. The abatement of the fly nuisance has been another feature of the society's work, and so much has been accomplished along this line that the presence of flies has become a comparatively rarity. E. T. Ferry is the president for the current year.

Park Region Anti-Tuberculosis Society.

About ten years ago a local organization was organized in Fergus Falls to take charge of the sale of Red Cross stamps at holidays. This society, locally known as the Park Region Anti-Tuberculosis Society, has kept its organization intact during all this time and has gradually extended the

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sphere of its work. Now it is interested the year around in the distribution of all kinds of literature bearing on the treatment of tuberculosis. Dr. D. G. Ristad has been the head of the Society for the past year.

STREET RAILWAYS IN FERGUS FALLS.

Few people of the present generation know that more than thirty years ago Fergus Falls was on the point of establishing a complete system of street railways in the city. But such is the case. In the summer of 1882 everyone was agog with the idea that the infant city was to assume a metropolitan air if street cars could bring about the much desired result. Apropos of street cars in the city, the *Journal* of November 30, 1882, appeared with the following article, which is sufficiently explanatory of the situation as it then appeared:

"The Fergus Falls Street Railway Company is fully organized and ready to file articles of incorporation, and erect and operate a line of street cars within the limits of the city as soon as circumstances permit. The incorporators are as follow: H. G. Page, Jacob Austin, C. O. Wheeler, J. H. Allen, E. J. Evans, Peter MacMaster, M. E. Clapp, A. G. Todd, James Compton, C. D. Wright, all residents of Fergus Falls. The operation of the company will be under the direction of a board of seven directors to be elected annually on the first Tuesday of June, and until the first annual meeting the above persons will constitute the board, with H. G. Page, president; Jacob Austin, vice-president; E. J. Evans, secretary, and Peter MacMaster, treasurer.

"The operation of a line of street cars will be of great benefit to the city, and will greatly enlarge the value of real estate in the outlying districts. This proposed line will also connect the two railroad depots and thus be a great convenience to the residents of the city. The capital stock of the company is fifty thousand dollars divided into shares of ten dollars each."

But the dream of street cars was not to be realized. The effort to organize the company consumed all the energy of the incorporators and nothing came of the plan. The idea of a street railway system in the city lay dormant for exactly thirty years. In the spring of 1912 a second attempt was made to provide the city with street car service, but this effort, like the first, was not productive of results. The owner of the street car franchise in Breckenridge, with Nels Haagenson and U. Huss, applied to the city council for a franchise in Fergus Falls in March, 1912, and the question of granting the same was voted on at the April election. It is needless to say that the franchise was willingly granted by the voters. The promoters proposed to operate a single line from the Northern Pacific railroad station through the streets of the city to the state hospital northeast of the city. The franchise called for definite action within a year from the

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time it was granted and provided that it should lapse at the end of the year if nothing had been done by that time. It lapsed.

On April 5, 1916, Alderman Eriksson, now mayor of the city, offered a resolution cancelling the franchise of this street railway company. The franchise had expired by limitation, but it was thought best to formally cancel it to clear the records, and the resolution was granted.

FERGUS FALLS OFFICIALS.

It is not generally known that the city of Fergus Falls has an official family numbering fifty-two, but, counting all of the officials from the mayor to the chief of the fire department, it is found that it totals that number. Some of these are elected and others are appointed by the mayor, council or water and light commissioners. A summary of the officials of the city, with their tenure, salaries and method of selection has been carefully compiled from the official record.

The chief executive of the city is the mayor, who is elected annually and serves without a salary. Leonard Eriksson is the present mayor. The mayor appoints the chief of the police department and as many patrolmen as are provided for by the council. The present chief is A. H. Johnson and the patrolmen, two in number, are Judson Burton and Joseph Holt. The chief receives a salary of seventy dollars a month and the two patrolmen receive sixty-five and sixty dollars a month respectively. The mayor also appoints the library board, of eight members, who serve two years and without a salary. The library board in turn selects the librarian, who is paid a monthly salary of sixty dollars. The present librarian is Amy A. Lewis. The library board is composed of A. R. Kitts, Mrs. Robert Hannah, C. D. Wright, Mrs. C. J. Sawbridge, Elsie Wright, H. M. Wheelock, C. A. Renny and Mrs. H. W. Bertelsen.

The municipal judge is elected for four years and receives for his services the fees from the office. The present incumbent is C. J. Sawbridge. The treasurer also is elected to serve for the term of one year; he receives a salary of one hundred dollars annually. The two justices of peace, who now are Chris Johnson and F. J. Pffeferle, are elected for a term of two years and receive only fees. The constables are elected for a period of two years and are paid in fees. G. M. Ross and A. B. Erickson are the constables serving at the present time. The members of the city council are elected for a period of two years and receive no salary. The council is now constituted as follow: First ward, E. M. Olson and Gunder Bartelson; second ward, S. S. Oksness and H. B. Solberg; third ward, F. E. Hodgson and Frank Wylie; fourth ward, E. S. Lamson and P. P. Bjerkeng.

The board of education is composed of six members, who are elected to serve for a period of two years. They receive no salary for their ser-

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vices. R. E. Lincoln, A. Brandenburg, Mrs. E. E. Adams, O. M. Haugen, Mrs. C. R. Wright and N. F. Field are now serving on the present board of education.

The auditor is appointed by the council for one year and receives a salary of two hundred and forty dollars yearly. Adolph Boe is the present auditor. The council also appoints the city clerk to serve a year, the present clerk being H. J. Collins, who receives an annual salary of twenty-one hundred dollars. The city attorney is appointed by the council to serve for a period of one year and receives an annual salary of three hundred dollars. C. L. Alexander is at present serving in the capacity of city attorney. Steve Butler is the present assessor. This office is filled by appointment by the city council, the tenure being one year. The assessor receives five hundred dollars yearly for his services. The city engineer and street commissioner are each appointed by the council to serve for one year. M. B. Starr is the present city engineer and draws an annual salary of six hundred dollars for his services. The street commissioner, Charles Hanson, receives three hundred and fifty dollars yearly. The city council also appoints the members of the public commission, as well as the water and light commissioners, both of whom serve for a period of three years and receive no salary. The members of the public commission at this time are J. A. Brown, Robert Hannah and J. S. Ulland. The present water and light commissioners are George B. Lowry, F. H. Straub and C. R. Wright. The superintendent of the electric light plant, now filled by J. W. Peterson, is appointed by the water and light commissioners. He receives a monthly salary of one hundred and twenty-five dollars. The board of health is appointed by the council. The present members are Dr. J. G. Vigen, Cyrus Beall and W. T. Bell. Doctor Vigen is the secretary of the board and is allowed an annual salary of one hundred and eighty dollars.

The chief of the fire department, Durkee Prentiss, is an appointive of the mayor. The members of the fire department, twenty-six in number, are volunteers and serve from year to year as long as their service is satisfactory. A sketch of the fire department is given elsewhere in this chapter.

FERGUS FALLS IN 1916.

If the solitary grasshopper who sat on the hill on August 20, 1870, and watched the heavily loaded wagons of George B. Wright drive across the valley into Fergus Falls, could return to the same place in 1916 and look about him, he would witness a most striking change in his surroundings. On the afternoon of that day the first spade-full of dirt was turned for the first dam across Red river in Fergus Falls: from that day may be reckoned the beginning of the history of the city. The story of the growth of the village from that day until it emerged as a full-fledged city in 1881, has

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AN INDUSTRY OF WHICH FERGUS FALLS IS JUSTLY PROUD.

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GOVERNMENT BUILDING, FERGUS FALLS.

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been told in detail in the preceding pages. The history of the city in its first years has also been covered in detail. The municipal growth of the city has been set forth from the time its first charter was issued in 1881 down to the beginning of the administration of the present mayor, Leonard Eriksson. The part the railroad has played in the growth of the city is set forth in the chapter on railroads. Other chapters tell of the city's banks, newspapers, schools and churches; still others speak of its fraternal, social, literary and musical phases. Mr. Mason in his reminiscences, has delved into the innermost life of the city and preserved for all time to come scores of interesting incidents dealing with the life of the city in its various stages.

It now remains to give a brief survey of the city as it stands today—forty-eight years after the first settler, Ernest Buse, built his rude log cabin on the banks of the Red river of the North. What have the years wrought? Has the prediction of its founder come true? Is Fergus Falls "the coming city"? From a humble beginning in 1871 there has arisen a flourishing city of eight thousand; the one industry of 1871 has arisen to a place where scores of industries may now be found. The hundreds of barrels of flour which are manufactured daily in the city, the manufactured products of many other kinds, the making of which give employment to hundreds of citizens, bear ample witness to the growth of the city. One might wonder whether the graveyard war of the seventies had anything to do with the establishment of the present casket factory. Undoubtedly the river has made the city what it is today. It is impossible to think of the city attaining the prominence it has without giving most of the credit to the silent river which wends its way through the city. Its waters have literally poured hundreds of thousands of dollars into the coffers of the citizens; on its banks have stood all of these years mills and factories of various kinds and, whatever else may be said, it remains true that Fergus Falls owes its existence as an industrial centre to the Red river of the North.

The most important industry of Fergus Falls is the manufacture of flour and the three mills of the city have a daily capacity of more than one thousand barrels, the Red River Milling Company alone manufacturing seven hundred barrels a day. This company erected a new plant in 1915 which cost one hundred thousand dollars and stands as the finest mill in the state for its size. It has an elevator capacity of eighty thousand bushels of grain. It is not possible to give a detailed description of all the industries of the city, but the following list of industries may indicate in a general way the place Fergus Falls holds as an industrial center: Two woolen mills, two sash and door factories, two cigar factories, two bakeries, tile factory, knitting factory, meat packing house, ice plow factory, casket factory, broom

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factory, foundry, ice cream factory, butter and cheese factory and potato cutter factory. In addition to these industries there are a number of smaller concerns engaged in manufacturing on a small scale. Among these may be mentioned blacksmiths, wagon-makers, cement block workers, tailors and dressmakers.

The city also has a wholesale fruit house and a wholesale grocery company. There are three large elevators, which handle an immense amount of grain every year. Two greenhouses find a ready market for their output; two laundries are engaged in an effort to assist the board of health in improving sanitary conditions in the city; two hospitals, five druggists, nine dentists and fourteen physicians are doing all within their power to preserve the health of the people. The wants of the inner man may find satisfaction in any one of eight hotels or one of twelve different restaurants. The ten barbers of the city attend to the hirsute wants of the masculine portion of the population. Merchandise of one kind or another, dry, wet, hard, etc., may be found on sale in more than forty different stores.

The social desires of the people are met by a large number of fraternal, benevolent and social organizations; the spiritual side of the city's life is ministered unto by no less than eighteen churches, the educational welfare of the children is in the hands of a school board, which neglects no opportunity to improve the schools of the city. In addition to the public schools, there are two colleges, Park Region Luther College and Northwestern College, both denominational institutions, but drawing very largely from the immediate vicinity of Fergus Falls.

It is not the purpose of this brief summary to give in detail the various factors which go to make up the life of the city, but rather to indicate in a general way what may be found in it. It should be said, however, that Fergus Falls is in a position to supply ample power at a low rate for any number of additional factories. Within the past few years there has been developed within five miles of the city an electric power plant which promises to be the biggest industry of its kind in the Northwest. The Otter Tail Power Company, with an investment of a million dollars already, is now supplying electric light, heat and power to twenty towns in this section of the state and is making preparation to extend its field of operation.

What of the future? How large a city is Fergus Falls destined to become? The growth of a city in this day and age of the world depends upon a variety of contending factors. First and foremost is the question of railroad facilities. Whether this city has such facilities in this direction as will insure its continued growth is a mooted point, but it seems that with two railroads the city is in a position to give its manufactured products comparatively easy access to the outside world. Certainly conditions will be

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improved when the road is built through from Fergus Falls to Detroit by way of Pelican Rapids. At different times in the past a railroad has been projected to run from a point on the Great Northern, probably at Campbell, northeast to Fergus Falls and diagonally across the county to Perham. Such a road would open up the interior of the county and be of great benefit to the county in general and to Fergus Falls in particular.

The great need of the city at the present time is very apparent to any one who visits it in the spring of the year. The first view a stranger gets of its streets is not prepossessing and it is not too much to say that if the two main streets—Lincoln avenue and Mill street—were paved it would actually add to the prosperity of the whole city within a very short time. It is the avowed policy of the present city administration to pave these two streets. An improved lighting system is also very much needed and the prospects are that this feature will receive attention in the near future. A commercial club has been organized within the past year, which promises to be of real benefit to the city. They are planning to assist in an advisory capacity every movement which has for its purpose the improvement of the city along any particular line. The city has the possibilities of growth, but only a progressive citizenry can bring it about—and only the future can tell the story.

The directory which follows gives a complete list of all the business and professional interests of the city:

Abstractors—C. L. Alexander, Barke & Barke, N. F. Field.

Agricultural Implements—O. Bertelsen & Co., Hille & Wagner, G. P. Hoffman, Mahler & Straus, E. J. Webber Company.

Artists—Mrs. E. B. Hunt.

Auctioneers—Chris Johnson, William Courteney.

Automobiles—A. J. Anderson, Bergerud, Miller & Loseth, J. I. Case Threshing Machine Company, C. G. Elliott, Fergus Automobile Company, Isaacson Brothers, Martin Johnson Auto Company, P. K. Onstead J. E. H. Hanson, W. H. Will.

Automobile Tire Repairers—G. S. Adair, Haller Brothers, Fergus Auto Company.

Bakers—E. Erickson, C. W. Kaddatz.

Bands and Orchestras—Anderson Orchestra, City Band, City Orchestra, Hand's Orchestra, Elks Band, Park Region L. C. Band.

Banks—Farmers & Merchants State Bank, Fergus Falls National Bank, First National Bank, First State Bank, Scandia State Bank.

Barbers—E. A. Brown, T. C. Halverson, P. A. Honeycutt, Katzenberger & Bates, T. T. Nelson, Wick & Puckett, John Leite, Fred Evenson.

Bicycles—A. N. Jorstad, J. D. Lightfoot, O. Bertelsen & Company.

Billiards—Connolly Brothers, P. K. Onstad, I. S. Bunker.

Blacksmiths—E. H. Beers, Claypool & Barhard, A. J. Fellows, Henry Kugler, Ole Larson, Sevrin Larson, F. L. Shaw, C. H. Welby.

Boat Builders—J. N. Winana, E. H. Beers.

Booksellers and Stationers—J. H. Beise, J. N. Palmquist, W. R. Smith, Westberg & Kissinger.

Boots and Shoes—Anderson Department Store, C. J. Bender, Berglund & Rolandson,

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Eames' Toggery Shop, Edward Elofson, Field & Hanson, Golden Rule Department Store, Grass Clothing Company, Home Trade Shoe Store, Iverson & Lee (Incorporated), Otter Tail County Co-Operative Company, J. T. Wilson, Leader Department Store, J. C. Penney Company.

Bottlers—Fergus Beverage Company, Fergus Ice Cream Company.

Brewers—Fergus Brewing Company.

Broom Manufacturers—Blood Broom Manufacturing Company.

Building Material—Elliott & Whitson, Fergus Lumber Company, Fergus Manufacturing Company, M. T. McMahon, Sandbeck Lumber Company, Scandia Sash & Door Company, J. A. A. Winther & Son.

Building and Loan—Northwestern Building Association, Otter Tail Building & Loan Association, Park Region Loan & Building Association.

Carpenters and Contractors—M. J. Albjerg, A. J. Aunan, Thorvald Brothen, George Glasgow, Moritz Grolimund, W. J. Gustafson, O. P. Halvorson, Peter Haugen, J. P. Johnson, Lamson-Gray Company, John Lauritzen, I. M. Otteson, M. M. Noyes, Peterson & Bergerson, O. L. Ronning, Scandia Sash & Door Company, William Schueller, Adolph Smith, T. J. Stang, E. G. Stolson, Swanson Electric Company, W. H. Thompson, T. J. Wilson, J. C. Woodworth.

Carpets, Rugs and Draperies—E. T. Barnard, Martin Benson, Golden Rule Department Store, Johnson & Company.

Casket Manufacturers—Fergus Casket Works.

Chiropractors—Arthur Anger, Gustav Henderson.

Cigar Manufacturers—Hunt Brothers, Kreutzer Brothers.

Civil Engineers—Hans Blegen, M. B. Starr, O. G. Molden.

Clothes Cleaners—Widegren & Sterrett, R. T. Eames.

Clothing and Gents' Furnishings—Anderson Department Store, C. J. Bender, Eames' Toggery Shop, Field & Hanson, Grass Clothing Company, Iverson & Lee (Incorporated), O. J. Schei, Haagenson & Johnson, J. C. Penney Company.

Coal and Wood—J. W. Campbell, Elliott & Whitson, Fergus Fuel Company.

Collections—C. L. Alexander, Fergus Adjustment Company, Fergus Falls Collections Agency, Hilton & Thompson, Chris Johnson, F. J. Pfefferle.

Colleges and Schools—Northwestern College, Park Region Luther College, Trinity Lutheran Parochial School.

Confectioners—F. W. Balfour, John Brenden, E. Erickson, A. C. Glorvigen, Peter Lein, Mirras Brothers, P. J. Skaar, Halvor Oftelie, Edward Elofson, Charles Nyberg.

Creameries—Fergus Co-Operative Creamery Association, Fergus Ice Cream Company.

Dentists—G. E. Bell, G. W. Harris, H. J. Laffitte, J. E. Metcalf, Nelson & Nelson, H. E. Niebels, John Schacht, F. N. Whittaker.

Dray Lines—Nels Dahling, H. L. Hansen, C. H. Newton, Pioneer Dray Line, Swanson Transfer Line.

Dressmakers—Miss Augusta Braaten, Miss Mathilde Hansen, Mrs. Jeanette Johnson, Langvick Sisters.

Druggists—J. H. Beise, J. T. Johnson, J. N. Palmquist, Westberg & Kissinger, Lee & Nelson.

Dry Goods—Anderson Department Store, Golden Rule Department Store, Leader Department Store, Otter Tail County Co-Operative Company, Solen-Gates Company, J. C. Penney Company.

Electric Supplies—Municipal Electric Light Store, Otter Tail Power Company, Swanson Electric Company.

Elevators—Farmers Co-Operative Elevator Company, Fergus Flour Mills Company, Red River Mills.

Engines and Threshers—J. I. Case Threshing Machine Company, Hille & Wagner, Mahler & Straus.

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Engravers—Hansen Brothers, J. N. Rovang, F. J. Straub, A. M. Fargeman. O. D. Leidal.

Express Companies—Great Northern Express Company, Northern Express Company.

Florists—Fergus Falls Floral Company.

Flour and Feeds Mills—Fergus Flour Mills Company, Red River Milling Company, O. J. Fossen.

Foundry—Fergus Iron Works Company.

Fruit—Fergus Fruit Company.

Furnaces—Joseph Bauer, Fergus Iron Works Company, William Galena, Frankoviz Hardware Company, Taylor Hardware Company, George Langdon.

Furniture—Anderson & Sanden, E. T. Barnard, Martin Benson, Johnson Furniture Company.

Garages—Bergerud & Miller, C. G. Elliott, Fergus Automobile Company, Martin Johnson Auto Company.

Grain and Stocks—C. E. Lewis & Company.

Grocers—(Wholesale) Beall & McGowan Company, (Retail) Anderson Department Store, W. T. Bell, Edward Bye. H. P. Bye & Company, M. J. Fossen. Golden Rule Department Store, J. P. Haave, E. J. Larson, Peter Lein, Mrs. Andrina Lerfald, O. C. Olson, Otter Tail County Co-Operative Company, P. M. Ree.

Hardware—Frankoviz Hardware Company, Maire & Bell Hardware Company, Sture-Lein Hardware Company, Taylor Hardware Company.

Harness—C. J. Hansen Company, J. C. Knoff.

Hides—E. J. Ness.

Hospitals—Fergus Falls State Hospital for Insane, St. Luke's Hospital, Wright Hospital.

Hotels—Bismarck Hotel, Christiania Hotel, Grand Hotel, Hotel Cecil, Hotel Kaddatz, Metropolitan Hotel, Occidental Hotel, Park Hotel.

Ice Cream Manufacturers—Fergus Ice Cream Company, Mirras Brothers.

Ice Dealers—J. W. Campbell, Fergus Brewing Company.

Ice Plow Manufacturer—Fergus Falls Rotary Ice Plow Company.

Jewelers—A. M. Fargeman, Hanson Brothers, O. D. Leidal, J. N. Rovang. F. H. Straub.

Junk Dealers—Reuben Sigelman.

Justices of the Peace—Chris Johnson, F. J. Pfefferle.

Knitting Works—Fergus Falls Knitting Works.

Kodaks, Cameras and Supplies—J. H. Beise, J. N. Palmquist, Westberg & Kissinger.

Ladies' Ready-to-Wear—Anderson Department Store, Golden Rule Department Store, Leader Department Store, Solem-Gates Company, Otter Tail County Co-Operative Company, J. C. Penney Company.

Laundries—J. B. Auxer, Fergus Falls Steam Laundry.

Lawyers—C. L. Alexander, Barke & Barke, W. P. Bayley, James A. Brown, Leonard Eriksson, N. F. Field, G. W. Frankberg, Hilton & Thompson, J. W. Mason, N. T. Moen, G. C. Olmstead, C. J. Sawbridge, J. L. Townley.

Libraries—Fergus Falls Public Library.

Lime, Plaster and Cement—J. W. Campbell, Elliott & Whitson, Fergus Fuel Company.

Livery, Feed and Sale Stables—J. B. Claypool, J. L. Cook, J. V. Matthews, L. L. Riley.

Lumber—Fergus Lumber Company, M. T. McMahon, Sandbeck-Lumber Company, J. A. A. Winther & Son.

Marble and Granite Works—Fergus Marble Works.

Meat Markets—The Anderson Market, Frey Meat Market, Theodore Johnson, Peterson & Sorenson, C. E. Carlson.

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Midwives—Mrs. Annie Kjell.

Milk and Cream—Fergus Ice Cream Company.

Milliners—Miss Helga Hage, Leader Department Store, Miss L. B. Overwick.

Mortgage Expiration Lists—Miss Bertha Herrmann.

Motorcycles—O. Bertelsen & Company, A. N. Jorstad, P. K. Onstad, John L. Lightfoot.

Music Teachers—Miss M. G. Bertelsen, Mrs. C. A. Billings, Miss Lorena Billings, Mrs. R. L. Button, Miss M. A. Gilloley, Miss A. A. Lewis, Northwestern College School of Music, Martin Read, Jr., Miss Augusta Schacht, M. C. Jonshoy, Mrs. E. T. Ferry, Mrs. A. C. Dorrum.

Musical Merchandise—A. J. Anderson, J. N. Rovang.

News Depots—Westberg & Kissinger, W. R. Smith.

Newspapers—*Fergus Falls Daily* and *Weekly Journal*, *Fergus Falls Free Press*, *Fergus Falls Ugeblad*, *Wheelock's Weekly*.

Oculists and Aurists—J. A. Freeborn, T. N. Kittelson.

Oil Dealers—Minnesota Oil Company, Standard Oil Company.

Optometrists—I. D. Leidal, Miss Mary Fargeman, F. J. Straub.

Osteopaths—J. L. Curtis.

Meat Packing Companies—Fergus Packing Company.

Painters—Barsness & Ronning, C. G. Elliott, Walter Peterson, K. F. Rosenberg, A H. Sahol, H. B. Shonts, George Wright, J. F. Horton.

Phonographs and Talking Machines—J. N. Rovang, Iver Leidal, F. J. Straub, Otto Benson.

Photographers—Mrs. E. H. Andrews, W. N. Babajoff, Axel Carlson, W. T. Oxley.

Physicians and Surgeons—Baker & Burnap, W. W. Drought, C. O. Estrem, J. A. Freeborn, O. M. Haugan, T. N. Kittelson, John Lyng, Frank Naegeli, O. T. Sherping, J. G. Vigen.

Piano Tuners—A. A. Aasen, Martin Read, Jr.

Pianos and Organs—A. J. Anderson, O. Bertelsen & Company, J. N. Rovang, Johnson Furniture Company.

Plumbing and Heating—Joseph Bauer, Frankoviz Hardware Company, William Galena, G. R. Langdon, Taylor Hardware Company.

Potato Cutter Manufacturer—J. N. Winans.

Potato Warehouse—Barclay & Company.

Printers—Fergus Falls Free Press, Fergus Journal Company, Lundeen Printing Company, Ricker Printery, Ugebald Publishing Company, Wheelock & Mantor.

Real Estate, Loan and Mortgage Companies—C. L. Alexander, O. J. Anderson, R. J. Angus, C. D. Baker, Barke & Barke, F. G. Barrows, W. P. Baylay, W. J. Breen, E. P. Brush, N. M. Faunce, Fergus Land Company, Robert Hannah, F. E. Hodgson, Chris Johnson, A. R. Kitts, Lake & Lowry, W. H. McBride, Moulton & LeDean, Park Region Land & Loan Company, F. J. Pfefferle, B. H. Phinney, G. H. Rink, M. H. Stand, E. M. Townsend, Ulland Land & Loan Company, Charles Wright Company, Wright Investment Company.

Repair Shops—Moritz Grolimund, H. H. Mau.

Restaurants—John Brenden, Christiania Cafe, M. D. Curry, E. Erickson, O. T. Flaget, A. C. Glorvigen, R. H. Grossmann, Miss M. S. Hanson, C. W. Kaddatz, Peter Lein, C. A. Nyberg, Mrs. Christena Tagg.

Sash and Doors—Fergus Manufacturing Company, Scandia Sash & Door Company.

Sewing Machine—O. Bertelsen & Company, Golden Rule Department Store, J. N. Rovang, Singer Sewing Machine Company, M. Benson.

Shoemakers—Fergus Falls Shoe Hospital, O. H. Toftely.

Silos—Charles Wright, Company, George Bomney, Mahler & Strauss, Sandbeck Lumber Company.

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Steamship Agents—Chris Johnson, Oliver Olson, M. H. Stang.

Stenographers—Miss Bertha Herrman, J. P. Vandersluis.

Storage and Transfer—O. J. Slettede & Son.

Tailors—H. J. Broeker, T. H. Johnson, J. M. Swenson, W. F. Tank.

Tea and Coffee—Grand Union Tea Company.

Telephone and Telegraph—Northwestern Telephone Exchange Company, Western Union Telegraph Company

Theatres—Bijou Theatre, Lyceum Theatre, Lyric Theatre.

Tile Manufacturer—Denniston Tile Works.

Tinners—J. F. Adelsman, Joseph Bauer, Frankoviz Hardware Company, Sture-Lein Hardware Company, Taylor Hardware Company.

Typewriters—Charles Wright Company, John Lightfoot.

Undertakers and Embalmers—E. T. Barnard, Martin Benson, Johnson Furniture Company.

Upholsterers—O. J. Slettede & Son, Soren Field.

Vacuum Cleaning—O. J. Slettede & Son.

Variety Stores—Fair Store, T. P. Peterson, Shackel & Pfefferle.

Veterinary Surgeons—O. A. Norman, A. O. Rustad.

Wall Paper—W. R. Smith, O. J. Sahol.

Water, Light and Power—Municipal Electric Light Store, Municipal Water Works Office, Otter Tail Power Company.

Woolen Goods—Northern Woolen Company, Red River Woolen Company.

Woolen Mills—Fergus Falls Knitting Works, Fergus Falls Woolen Mills Company.

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CHAPTER XXX.

REMINISCENCES OF OTTER TAIL COUNTY, 1869-1872.

By Ole Jorgens.

On the 5th of July, 1869, I settled on my homestead claim on section 33, township 133, range 40, the township now being the town of Aurdal. With me came Edwin Anderson and my wife's uncle, Stengrim Syversen. Anderson settled on an adjoining quarter section next to my claim, on the west side. His claim took in several fractions on both sides of Otter Tail river. There were only three white families in Aurdal township at this time. These families were Engebret Nelson, John Anderson and Erik Erikson Bergen.

Our first temporary neighbors were a band of Indians, all in nature's artless simplicity. We did not know whether they were unfriendly Sioux or harmless Chippewas—we lived in Minnesota during the summer of 1862, and now seeing this large camp of Indians on the river bank near us, we could not help but surmise what might happen to us next. Inside of one week's time after our arrival and settlement came a few more settlers; the first were the Torguson brothers, the Halland brothers and the Halden family, the latter settled inside the township of Fergus Falls.

Into Tordenskjold township came several new settlers during the early part of the summer of 1869. There all settlers had to hold their claims as squatters, as the township was not yet subdivided into sections and quarter sections.

Into Dane Prairie moved a few families during the summer. Most of them were Danes and settled largely on the eastern side of Wall lake. My good friend, Christian Hansen, with his large family was one of them.

I was enthusiastically pleased with the location of my claim and the surrounding country, with the beautiful lakes, the park-like timber bodies around me, and inside, the waving meadows and rich prairies. The first summer on the claim I spent in hard work, together with my hired man, in cutting and putting up hay for my cattle and in building shelter for them and a shanty for ourselves. The other work was breaking prairie for the future grain field.

We had to endure a great many inconveniences. There was not a road of a bridge in the county and the nearest flour-mill was in Alexandria, Douglas county. The nearest railroad station was at St. Cloud. We had no postoffice nearer than Clitherall or Evansville, Douglas county. To relieve this inconvenience, we organized a mail-carrying club. Each mem-

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ber agree to get our mail by turn, at the Clitherall postoffice and leave it at the house of Jeppe Mortensen, Dane Prairie. In this way we got mail once a week.

Until about the middle of October I was too busy to explore the country about us, but I had plats of many of the surrounding townships. On the Fergus Falls plat was a miniature map of the village of Fergus Falls. This little map made me believe Fergus Falls was a real village, and I planned to see it and get acquainted with my neighbors.

One day during the latter part of October (1869), I put my gun on my shoulder and started to follow Red river down. Nearly all the distance from my home to about a half mile east of the present city limit was a continued entanglement of abandoned Indian tents. At this point I began to look about, expecting to see some of the buildings in Fergus Falls. I saw none, and walked on. I passed the falls, but not seeing a cataract, I continued to walk until I should find it and the village. After walking considerably farther, I found the abandoned home of the Wright family at the fording place on the government road from St. Paul to Ft. Abercrombie. Here I rested a short time and then started on my return walk towards my home, where I arrived after dark, tired and disappointed.

We, the few settlers in Aurdal, had very little time for social gatherings, and when we did meet very little was said about county organization, if it was mentioned. It was not immediately desired because it would force taxation and all were poor and feared expenses.

Unexpectedly, one evening on one of the first days of November, 1869, three men came to our hut. Two of them were acquaintances of long standing, one being Nels E. Nelson, of Aurdal, and the other Ole Peterson, of Glenwood, at that time county treasurer of Pope county. The third man was from St. Olaf, Otter Tail county. I will omit his name—it does not contribute to pleasant memories. Mr. Peterson's visit was not in the interest of Otter Tail county politics. The Otter Tail county men said they came to make me run for county auditor. I said I had never heard of Otter Tail county being organized. They said a few men in St. Olaf and Clitherall had petitioned the governor for an order creating a few election precincts and the appointment of three county commissioners and a county auditor to direct and receive reports of the election. They said further that the instigators of the county organization had held a political convention and nominated a full set of county officers. They did not want the candidate for county auditor and urged me to run independently. It was all new to me; I could not understand how I could be elected as this was less than three days before election. We conversed on the proposition nearly a whole night, and finally I consented.

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The outcome of it was that I was elected, and a few days after election I met with the temporary county commissioners and the auditor, Mr. Whiting. Mr. Whiting declared he had never sought the office and did not want to serve, and advised the county commissioners to appoint me for the time till my office term was to commence. The board acted on his advice and I accepted in order to get the organization into running condition. The county did not own a sheet of paper or a dollar in the treasury, and in fact there was not a qualified treasurer acting. I started at once negotations with the St. Paul Press Company for county records and assessment blanks. I received the ordered supply of tax blanks for the next spring for distribution among the assessors and the blank county records came all satisfactory according to agreement. The elected county officers qualified in March, 1870, and thereby the county organization was perfected, and the modest machine in working order.

During the summer of 1870 the Northern Pacific Railroad Company sent out surveyors to survey a prospective route for the road. They surveyed through Otter Tail City, and on between Otter Tail and Rush lakes. We ordinary people supposed that the road would be built along this survey and that the county seat would therefore be permanently located at Otter Tail City, but we were doomed to disappointment. The railroad company demanded a right of way through the land of one Thomas Cathcart, one of the largest landowners in that part of the county, and the company furthermore asked that Cathcart donate them a half interest in all his land in and about Otter Tail City. Cathcart refused point blank. He supposed that the company would be obliged to build through his land in order to pass between the lakes, Otter Tail and Rush. But the railroad company fooled him. It found a passable route northeast of Rush lake and abandoned the Otter Tail City survey. This statement of Cathcart's stubborn refusal was told me by business men of Otter Tail City at the time the negotiation ended. I always believed it was nearly real inside inflammation. The refusal of the railroad company to pass through Otter Tail City virtually swept her off from her foundation—it made her impossible as a county seat for Otter Tail county.

During the summer of 1870 I was appointed assistant census marshal, as enumerators were called at that time. All the ranges of Otter Tail county west of range 38 were assigned me. That gave me thirty-five townships to canvass, and although nearly half of that number did not have a single settler, I went into all of them where it was possible to get in and get out. It was very much like a hunter's job to find the settlers in their covered wagons or huts in the heavy woods or in some small prairie openings a long distance within heavy timber surroundings. To find shelter

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under a roof for a night was a disagreeable undertaking. Many nights I had to lie down on the bare ground with my pony attached to a picket rope near me. It might truly be said that the mosquitoes nearly ate us up.

And food was some days impossible to get. I often had to get along with one meal a day. In some new settlements the language question was a special difficulty. One day in the German settlement north of Rush lake, I found in most homes the wife with her children at home alone. The men were in the woods or meadows away from the house working. At every door I frightened the women by my attempt to get in. To calm their fright I had to sing out in my imperfect German, and in every case it worked as a perfect shibboleth. I was allowed to enter and could get the information I needed without difficulty. When the evening came I could not find a house or hut that had a corner for me for my night's lodging. In my problematic situation I mustered up courage and walked over to Father Albrecht's convent for men and women.

I hurried over to the church. When I got there the brothers were just coming from their work in the field and were going toward the chapel for their evening devotions. I rushed in front of them and asked if I could stay over night with them. The abbot, Joseph Boedigheimer, answered me and said he would find a couch for me. I had not had anything for supper, but I looked the situation over and concluded it would be difficult to get anything prepared at this time of day. I slept on a couch and got up the next morning and followed the brothers into the basement of the church where they had their morning religious exercises. When they were through I asked the abbot if I could go with them to breakfast. He said their food was not fit for me. I, however, followed them down in their mess room and partook of their food, which consisted of salted potatoes and a light kind of water gravy. I wanted to pay the abbot, but he told me to report to the priest. The priest asked me if I had had breakfast. I told him I ate with the brothers. He got excited and said it was not food for me and ordered a sister cook to get butter, pancake and tea.

After I had taken the census of the inmates I offered to pay for my stay, but he refused to accept any pay. The abbot and I parted as mutual friends and we remained as such as long as I lived near where I could meet him.

Joseph Boedigheimer was a scholar in the English, French and German languages. The Rush lake German settlement had several splendid settlers. Martin Fiedler, who was county commissioner nearly all the time I was auditor, was a thoroughly honest, upright and agreeable man. The farmers, Boedigheimer, Fuchs and Gerber, were all reliable and worthy citizens. On my house-to-house visit as enumerator I called at the house

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of E. E. Corliss and according to census schedules I had to inquire if all the inmates of the house were white. This naive question Mr. Corliss never forgets to ridicule when early reminiscences are mentioned.

During the summer of 1870 I, with all my neighbors in Aurdal and Fergus Falls, sent a petition to the postoffice department at Washington, D. C., asking for a mail route from Pomme de Terre to Fergus Falls, and for postoffices at Fergus Falls, Wall Lake and St. Olaf. I drew a simple sketch of the route with marked locations of the proposed postoffices. Through the recommendation of a personal friend in Washington our petition was granted and Mrs. Anna Hannigsen was appointed the first postmaster of Fergus Falls. I had the honor to fill out the first monthly report of Mrs. Hanigsen to the postoffice department at Washington. Peter Frones, an old soldier and sailor, obtained the contract to carry the mail twice a week between Fergus Falls and Pomme de Terre. For a while he walked the entire distance and carried the mail on his back.

When Otter Tail City lost the railroad, as has been previously stated, all persons who interested themselves in the formation and permanent organization of the county, began to look about for a location for the future county seat. St. Olaf, Tordenskjold, Tumuli and Dane Prairie contained at this time the bulk of the settlers of the county. A little sawmill was being built by the Hoff brothers on the shore of Pleasant river in Tordenskjold township. With this little industrial plant within the best settled township in the county a few of the leading citizens felt that this particular place was the most suitable location for the county seat. In accordance with this demand a bill was drafted and placed in the hands of the representative of the boundless legislative district of which Otter Tail county was a part. I think the representative at this time was a man from Duluth. The bill passed the Legislature (February 28, 1870) and for a few days after the passage of the act we supposed the county seat was lawfully located at Tordenskjold. Having been home on a visit, I came back to Otter Tail City and soon met Judge Reynolds, who at this time resided in Otter Tail City. In fact I boarded with the Judge's family at this time.

He said as soon as we began our conversation: "What have you fellows been doing down there in Tordenskjold? That act is unconstitutional, the county seat cannot be taken from Otter Tail City without a vote of the people of Otter Tail county."

E. E. Corliss was county attorney at this time and he and Reynolds looked the situation over and both declared the act was void. Nothing could be done, of course, until the Legislature met again, and although there was an effort made to locate the county seat at Fergus Falls, the act of February 16, 1871, re-established it at Otter Tail City. The same session

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(March 4) passed an act creating the county of Holcomb with Fergus Falls as its county seat. The latter village was now beginning to loom up as the coming town of the county and many citizens in the southwestern part of the county began to make plans to locate a county seat at this place. They either wanted Fergus Falls to be the county seat of Otter Tail county, or if this could not be brought to pass, to organize a new county out of the western half of Otter Tail county and make Fergus Falls its county seat. The former plan failed with the selection of Otter Tail City as the county seat of Otter Tail county on February 16, 1871. Sixteen days later the second plan was put into execution although it required a vote of the people of the county to establish the proposed county of which Fergus Falls was to be the county seat. I cannot enter into the discussion of the various factors which featured the county seat squabble of 1871 and 1872. It is sufficient to state that it was about all that the people of the county talked about those two years.

One proposition proposed the division of Otter Tail county into four counties, with county seats at Fergus Falls, Pelican Rapids, Perham and Parkers Prairie. This proposition was not carried any further than into discussion among the directly interested parties in the scheme. I opposed this plan with all the political strength I possessed. I feared a small county. I grew into manhood in a small county and was always told by the able citizens that a small county was a mistake of the organizers. So the four-county scheme was dropped and the Holcomb county proposition took its place, and, as above stated, a bill for the organization of Holcomb county with Fergus Falls as county seat was passed on March 4, 1871. The bill provided that the counties interested should vote on the question and the vigorous campaign of 1871 on this question is still remembered by old settlers now living.

Hon. E. E. Corliss took a vigorous stand against the division and I did what I could against it. As a general proposition the eastern half of Otter Tail county and practically all of the county officials were against the formation of the proposed county. The total vote in Otter Tail county showed a majority of one hundred and forty-nine against the proposition, and while the vote in Holcomb county, is not known, it was not sufficient one way or the other to effect the result. Fergus Falls voted nearly unanimously in favor of the new county—two hundred and one for and seven against the question.

I frequently discussed the division schemes with George B. Wright and Ernest Buse. I proposed that we should add range 44 to Otter Tail county and locate the county seat at Fergus Falls, but Wright said we could never keep the county seat for the whole of Otter Tail county with its present

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dimensions in Fergus Falls. I always respected George B. Wright's opinion. I felt sincerely sorry I had to disagree with him. I recognized in him a keen and able business man.

During this unsettled state of affairs, I approached E. E. Corliss with my enlarging plan, the central idea of which was the removal of the county seat from Otter Tail City to Fergus Falls. A person has to know Mr. Corliss and his strong personal character in order to comprehend how he flayed me for my audacity in proposing so wicked a scheme to him, and especially in view of the fact that all of his property was on the eastern side of the Leaf mountains. We did not discuss the plan much this time; we parted in a serious mood. I suggested reflection on his part. The next time we met we painfully discussed the situation, but we agreed on only one point—the county should not be divided.

The question was, where should the county seat be located? It was very patent that it was going to be taken away from Otter Tail City, if not by the Legislature of 1872, at least within the next few years. At the beginning of the session of 1872 it was known that the Northern Pacific could live up to its charter by going through Fergus Falls instead of Otter Tail City, and the county seat without a railroad did not have much chance of existence. Meanwhile the citizens of the county were discussing in the summer and fall of 1871 a new location for the county seat. Clitherall was mentioned, Battle Lake had its followers, a few property holders at Otter Tail City loudly asserted that it should remain in their village, but it seemed to be the general consensus of the people of the county that Fergus Falls was the most eligible size. It had the best water facilities and it seemed to have the best prospects for a railroad of any of the suggested sites. I was convinced that it was by far the only place for the county seat. With this idea in mind I went to my friend Corliss and laid the proposition before him. We discussed the matter long and seriously and finally he yielded to my view sadly and reluctantly; not only to the proposition of moving the county seat from Otter Tail City to Fergus Falls, but also the addition of range 44 to the county. It seemed to me, and I convinced him, of the soundness of my reasoning, that this double plan of action was the most feasible and at the same time the most advisable thing to be done.

As for my own efforts in favor of Fergus Falls, I have no apology to offer—call it selfishness if you like. When the time came for final action in the Legislature of 1872, my friend Corliss, as representative from this county in the lower House of the Legislature, succeeded in getting all the necessary legislation passed to add range 44 and make Fergus Falls the county seat. Both acts were passed on the same day (February 28, 1872) and they were both later ratified by the citizens of Otter Tail county. Thus

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ends the story of the struggle which Otter Tail county went through to get its present boundary limits and the permanent location of its county seat. I played my part as my best judgment directed me and I trust that future generations will credit me with using my best endeavor for the welfare of the best county in the state of Minnesota.

THE STORY OF A STEER.

The Chippewa Indians made frequent trips through Otter Tail county in the early seventies and camped up and down the Red river near our humble settlements. Our women and children, in particular, were not without fear when the Indians were in the immediate neighborhood, although on the whole they were quiet and inoffensive. They were the most annoying because of their intrusive begging, and many a timid young housewife baked an unwilling pancake for some poor Indian. On one occasion the Indians shot a young steer belonging to Andrew Olson, who lived near the Lapham Falls. Quite naturally, the news of the killing soon spread over the surrounding community, and we settlers took our guns and started out after the Indians but did not find the ones who did the deed. I do not know whether Olson ever got paid for his steer or not, but I know he carried a bill for his loss to the Indian agent, who promised he would deduct the amount from annuity of the tribe.

TRAVELING IN THE EARLY DAYS.

Traveling was a severe hardship in the early days when the roads and bridges were absolutely unknown, and even blazed trails were marked out only between the larger settlements. In the fall of 1869, in November, I think it was, some of us had to get out and get our winter supply of flour. From our immediate community went Haldor Nelson, John Anderson and myself. We had to go to Alexandria in Douglas county, and it took us three days of hard traveling to get there. It happened that it rained and snowed all the time we were on the road and we had to sleep in our wagon boxes every night. The rivers and creeks were bulging with water, making it very difficult to ford them in many instances. Anderson had a pair of young wild steers, and the fact that he was not an expert driver did not add to the gaiety of the trip. Every time he came to a stream of water he had to get out, take his wild steers by the halter, plunge in the stream and lead the stubborn creatures across. On the west and north side of the village of Brandon were two lakes. Between them was a connecting lagoon, and the water here was so deep that it flowed into the bottom of our wagon boxes. It so happened that in the road between these two lakes there was a large rock and the water practically covered the boulder, as Anderson found to his sorrow. Anderson, as usual, was out wading in water up to his waist,

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leading his steers. By the time the water was up to the bellies of his steers he could not manage them even with the ropes on their horns, and in their plunging about they pulled the wagon across the rock and upset it with the unfortunate Anderson quietly resting underneath it. This accident made it necessary for Nelson and myself to get out and help right the wagon, and the freezing weather did not add any to the pleasure of the operation. Of course the nimble Anderson crawled out in a hurry and the three of us finally got the wagon on its wheels again and out of the slough. The procession proceeded. On a steep hill northwest of Alexandria Anderson's steers got into bad temper again, broke away from him and ran down the hill right into a lake. Another stop was necessary in order to coax the "pesky critters" out of the lake and back onto the road again. Finally, on the evening of that day, the third out, we reached Alexandria. Our clothes were stiff with ice and we were chilled through and through. We found a camping place in the woods near the village. We made a big log fire and spent the night quite comfortably, especially considering the fact that we were soaked through and through and it snowed violently all night. Otherwise, everything was pleasant. The next morning we bought our flour at the rate of eight dollars a hundred pounds and at once started on the return trip home.

Another story which shows some of the ups and downs, especially the latter, of early traveling in Otter Tail county, is connected with a trip we made to Audubon in 1873. It was the occasion of the district convention for the nomination of a candidate for the lower house of the Legislature. We hired an old expert horseman in Fergus Falls to take us. We met with no untoward accidents on the way over, and I might say that the convention that day nominated John W. Mason as the candidate of his party for the seat in the Legislature, to which he was afterwards elected. The interesting part of this story is connected with the trip back to Fergus Falls. There were two rigs in the party. John W. Mason and Sam Nichols were in a single seated buggy; Jake Austin, O. S. King, E. E. Corliss, myself and one other whose name I do not now recall, were in a three seated platform wagon driven by a man by the name of Cole, a typical old stage driver. We left Audubon with the intention of reaching Pelican Rapids before dark, the three-seated wagon taking the lead and Mason and Nichols bringing up the rear. Some time before we reached Pelican Rapids the road went through a dense tract of timber and the driver had to be on the lookout constantly to avoid the stumps which were scattered here and there along and in the roadway. Suddenly the stentorian voice of Jake Austin cried out: "Cole; look out for that stump!" The old stage driver replied with a look of disgust on his countenance as if Jake were questioning his ability to handle the team: "I guess I can see that stump. I am adoin' the drivin'". Evi-

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dently the old driver had his attention distracted for the moment, for he had hardly got the words out of his mouth when one of the wheels of our wagon was right on top of the stump. The next moment there were six men scattered over the ground in the immediate vicinity of that stump. John and Sam afterwards admitted that they enjoyed a good laugh at our expense.

THE FIRST WORKINGS OF THE GAME AND FISH LAWS.

The rivers and lakes of Otter Tail county were filled with all kind of fish in those early days. We all caught fish of all kinds and with every conceivable sort of a contrivance. We supposed we had a right to fish and that no one could challenge this right. During one session of the Legislature some wise legislator had a law passed putting unreasonably heavy fines on fishing with anything but hook and line. A poor Norwegian in Tordenskjold had made a basket to catch fish in, and did not know, of course, that he was committing an offense against the commonwealth of Minnesota. Morally, it was not a crime in Otter Tail county at that time. A certain person, whose name I will not mention, was an evil natured man who enjoyed troubling his neighbors. This trouble-maker found the poor Norwegian with a large number of fish in his possession. He laid a complaint before the authorities, the man was arrested, fined and was compelled to sell his working oxen, the only thing of value he possessed, to get the money with which to pay his fine. I leave it to my readers as to the respective merits of the two men.

A NINETY-DOLLAR STORY.

One day a man from Dane Prairie walked into Fergus Falls, and on the road lost his pocketbook containing ninety dollars. The man was very poor and worrying over the loss of so much money almost deranged his mind. A day or so later an elderly man, a Swede by the name of Anderson, came into my office in the court house with the pocketbook containing the ninety dollars. He asked me what he should do with it and of course I told him whose it was, and how glad the owner would be to know that it had been found. Anderson lived on the southeast side of Wall lake. I mentioned this incident to show the difference between a good man like Anderson and a bad one like the one who reported on his neighbor catching fish.

THE DROWNING OF JAMES CRAIGIE, WIFE AND MRS. JOHN CROMB.

All the old settlers will remember the drowning in Otter Tail lake of James Craigie, his wife and a Scotch lady, Mrs. John Cromb, who was visiting them at that time. The bodies of Mrs. Craigie and Mrs. Cromb were found shortly after they had sunk, but it was some time afterwards before the body of Craigie was recovered. On the Sunday morning following the

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accident the news was brought to Otter Tail City, where I was then staying. Everybody who could get away from the village went to Balmoral and I went along with the crowd. I got a raft made of pine rails and paddled out to where it was thought the body of Craigie might be found. Several Indian squaws, in birch bark canoes, paddled about my raft. One of them mumbled and beckoned to me. I worked my raft over to where she pointed, and looking down into the water I could see the body of Craigie. I lifted it to the surface of the water with a pole, and brought it to the shore.

SIXTY MILES TO THE NEAREST DOCTOR.

Hans Johnson, of Dane Prairie, while hunting shot himself through the hand. There was no doctor nearer than Alexandria, sixty miles away, and it was a whole week before Doctor Lewis of that place arrived at the home of Johnson to attend to him. The Doctor had to cut off the thumb and part of the forefinger. I was present at the operation.

MY FIRST CHRISTMAS IN OTTER TAIL COUNTY.

On Christmas evening, 1869, my wife, our baby and my cousin, Mr. Boen, and I were sitting around the fireplace trying our best to keep warm. It was cold, very cold, with the thermometer considerably below zero. We were trying to celebrate in our humble way the precious evening with the best possible appearance. We lighted our Christmas candles and quietly and seriously watched them slowly sputtering away. We were far from all our friends and relatives, and there was but one neighbor within several miles—Edwin Anderson and his wife and daughter, Nellie.

And so we sat and watched the fire in the grate and the light of our flickering candles until it was time to retire. Just as we were saying good night to each other and getting ready to go to our respective quarters, there was a knock at the door. A second rap with increasing violence seemed to indicate that whoever was on the outside was very anxious to come in. I must confess that I was uneasy and that as I went toward the door I had a premonition that an unwelcome visitor was standing outside.

I opened the door with no little trepidation and at once realized that my worst fears were confirmed. There stood two Indian families, four adults and five or six children, and it was not difficult to gather from their gestures that they wanted to come inside. I ordered them by signs equally well understood that they might come in if they left their guns on the outside. They complied with my request and stepped in the room, making it so crowded that there was hardly room to stand. Our little hut was not built with the idea of housing any more than my own family and so many wayfarers filled it to overflowing. It seemed that there was nothing to do but prepare to keep them over night and, accordingly, I went out to my hay

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stacks and carried in some hay to make a bed on the floor for them. You will understand that our little cabin was plastered tight and it was only a question of a short time until it was suffocating with the inevitable Indian stench. The situation was not relieved when the Indians took out their pipes and dry willow and began to smoke. To tell the truth we tried to be hospitable, but it was at the expense of our health. The poor Indians remained all night and you may imagine my relief when morning came. They then steeped some grass for tea, baked some cakes, ate their frugal meal and left us. Thus passed our first Christmas eve in Otter Tail county.

ANENT THE RIEL REBELLION.

In the spring of 1870 a French half-breed by the name of Lewis, with his family, camped near us. They soon became very friendly and proved to be very congenial neighbors, despite our religious differences, for they were devout Catholics. They had formerly lived in Manitoba and their sympathies were with the Canadians in the incident which I am going to relate. In the spring of 1871 or 1872 the old man came to me and in his peculiar broken English told me that he and his sons would join the half-breed army in the Riel rebellion. I discouraged him all I could from such action and told him he had nothing to gain and everything to lose by so doing, that he would be very liable to get killed. The poor half-breed believed that a few hundred half-breeds could actually whip England. Finally, after talking together for quite a while, he left me, but not until he had made me a present of a large canoe which he had made out of a basswood log. However, the old man finally did join the uprising and was arrested along with all the others who participated in the insurrection. He was sentenced to fourteen years in the Queenstown prison. Riel, himself, was hanged.

A DEER FIGHT.

An interesting incident which may bear saving regards a fight between two buck deers which I witnessed in Tordenskjold township in the early seventies. I had been in St. Olaf township and was going from one township to another in my official efforts to get them into working order. Coming from Hoff's place on Pleasant river, I observed a man and woman running about between their house and stable in an excited way. This was about half a mile east of Gabriel Stoutland's farm. I turned my pony off from the path and made my way toward them. There I saw two buck deers whose horns had become so locked together in fighting that they could not get them apart. The man and woman brought out some strong ropes used for cow halters and with these tied the deer to some nearby tree. I left after this was done, and afterwards heard that the neighbors feasted on venison for several days thereafter.

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MOVING OF THE JAIL FROM OTTER TAIL CITY TO FERGUS FALLS.

In 1873, shortly after it was decided to move the county seat from Otter Tail City to Fergus Falls, the commissioners ordered the new log jail at Otter Tail City torn down and moved by sections to Fergus Falls. The hauling was done by Marcus Shaw and the building was set up on the lot west of where the Park Hotel now stands. A few days after the jail was moved in the spring of 1873, I met Salmon Larson, who had built the jail, and he seemed very much perturbed over the removal of the county bastile. In a tone of voice which left no doubt as to his feelings in regard to the matter, he said: "Now you fellows have stole the jail too, you are a thief, a robber and a scoundrel. You ought to be sent to prison instead of having county offices."

EARLY BOOTLEGGING IN OTTER TAIL COUNTY.

It is probable that the first man in Otter Tail county arrested for selling whiskey to the Indians was Donald McDonald, a Scotch trader, who came to the county before 1860 and lived here throughout the Civil War and for many years afterwards. McDonald sold whiskey openly and made no pretense of trying to make a secret of his illicit traffic. He was finally arrested by the United States marshal and taken to St. Paul for trial. The old Scotchman was then somewhere between eighty and ninety years of age—before his death he claimed to be a hundred years of age—and was feeble in body, but very active in spirits. Upon arriving at St. Paul, McDonald at once sent for Governor Ramsey and one or more of the territorial officials. He demanded that they get him out of jail at once. During the progress of a kind of mock examination he was asked if he had ever sold any whiskey to the Indians. "By ———— ————, hundreds and hundreds of barrels." The old man was very profane and called upon the Almighty at frequent intervals for assistance. The officials who were examining him had this wild, half-dead man on their hands and they did not know just what to do with him. They pretended to him that Governor Ramsey should be responsible for his appearance in court. The trial came on, witnesses must have been lacking, for the old man was acquitted. As he was leaving the court room one of the attaches of the court said to him: "Now, Donald, don't sell any more whiskey." The old Scotchman shuffled toward the door, his tottering steps causing him to sway back and forth, but as he reached the door he mumbled as if to himself, "Not until I get home." History does not record whether he was arrested again, but tradition says that he continued to sell his national drink.

ASSESSING OF TAXES IN 1870.

In the spring of 1870 I had to get assessors appointed to list the property of the county for taxation. In my official capacity as auditor I had

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general charge of all matters connected with this work. One day I went into Fergus Falls township and found Ernest Buse and his young wife in a crib covered with hay. Ernest was always very hospitable and made me stop long enough to get a bite to eat. He told me several men had taken claims a couple miles west of him. I struck out and found a new log shanty within an hour's walk. I looked through the door and saw four or five men stretched out on the floor for their noon rest. These men were the three Kalling brothers, Charles Westberg and one Mr. Johnson. As I recall it, I got Johnson to do the assessing in Fergus Falls township for the spring of 1870. Any of the men were more than able to do the assessing, but Johnson seemed to be the best man for the job. From that time on I was a close friend as well as a neighbor of the five men I saw for the first time on that day.

THE STORY OF A BOOK.

One morning in 1870 I was out on my official duties, walking as usual, when I came by the door of Julius Kalling. His shanty was a half dugout, the top half being made of logs. I went inside and found the young man reclining on some hay in a bunk. Looking about the small room I saw on his fireplace a large Swedish book which had evidently been smoldering in the coals for some time. I spoke out loudly in our common language and said: "Are you trying to burn a valuable book?" He turned toward me disgustingly and replied: "We need no books in this wilderness." I think the book was a large genealogical record of the Count Kalling family. Julius himself was a cadet from one of the military academies in Sweden.

THE FIRST INSANITY CASE IN OTTER TAIL COUNTY.

Few people in the county now living have a personal knowledge of the first case of insanity in Otter Tail county. I was intimately associated with the disposition of this case and believed that it merits a place in my reminiscences of the early history of the county. A young Swede by the name of John Wickstrom settled on a claim in Elizabeth town. He was single and a tireless hunter. He often came to our home to rest and get something to eat that was home prepared. While he was away once on his hunting trips a man went into his claim shanty intending to take his (Wickstrom's) claim. When Wickstrom came home he found this man in his house and he refused to get out. Naturally Wickstrom did not like it, and the more he thought about it the madder he got. As he walked around the house he shot through the pitch of the roof. The upshot of this shot was that Wickstrom was soon arrested, and haled before a local justice of the peace in the community. It seemed that the intruder had more friends than Wickstrom, or at least he had more present on the day of the trial. The crowd surrounded John and by their talking, gesticulating and threats, so excited

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him that he became violently insane. Then the court and crowd had the insane man on their hands and did not know what to do with him. In this dilemma they brought him to my house, thinking that as county auditor, I ought to take charge of him. As soon as they got him in my house they made a hasty exit, and there I was, with my wife, baby and an insane man in their midst.

I fixed him that he could not get loose, saddled my pony and rode as fast as I could to the judge of probate first and next to two of the county commissioners. The latter promised to help me to get him to the insane hospital. I went back home and waited for the commissioners to come. When one of them came in sight of my house I let Wickstrom loose and turned him out of doors. Outside of my house was a pile of logs of various sizes. The crazy Swede grabbed one log after another from the pile and slung them high up in the trees and at the same time roared with the power of a lion. The county commissioner was a very slight and small man and this demonstration of brute strength on the part of the mad man was certainly sufficient to frighten him. Wickstrom was a man of huge stature and could have tossed the county commissioner up in the trees about as easily as he did the ends of the logs. I spoke to Wickstrom and quieted him so that the commissioner felt that it was safe to come up to the house. When he finally faced Wickstrom the latter fiercely inquired, pointing his huge finger at the commissioner, "What do you want, little boy?" The "little boy" was so frightened that for the time being he did not know what he did want. Finally, however, I got Wickstrom quieted down and the commissioner prepared an order for me to have him committed to the insane asylum of St. Peter. Sheriff Beardsley took him to the asylum and E. E. Corliss, who had some court business in St. Paul at that time, accompanied Beardsley to St. Peter. Wickstrom was later transferred to the Fergus Falls hospital, and died there in 1914, after being insane for forty-two years. I called at the hospital a few days after his death and when told of his demise, it seemed to affect my whole being. His history seemed a part of my own and carried me back to the hopeful days of 1872. It was all very sad to me.

THE SCOURGE OF THE SEVENTIES.

There are many people now living who have vivid recollections of those years when it seemed that the grasshoppers would cause a depopulation of the county. As I am writing there comes to my mind an experience I had with these ravagers of the seventies, which might be interesting to generations yet unborn. On one of my trips down the Pelican valley I passed through the village of Elizabeth, or, as we usually called it in those days, Niggler's town. I noticed as I drove along the path up the valley how strong

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and healthy all kinds of grains and vegetation appeared to be. The fields of grain were all small, but they were very thrifty and were a delight to the eye. I rejoiced at the appearance of prosperity and the evidence of fertility of the land of Otter Tail county. In fact everything was marvelously beautiful. I wish to call especial attention to the luxuriance of all plant life in order to bring out the contrast which was to come a day later. On my way back down the valley, I rode through Sletvold township, now called Oscar. It seems that a settler in the township for reason of his own did not like the name Sletvold and quietly got the Legislature to change it to Oscar. Sletvold was the name given to it at the time of its organization, the name being bestowed upon it in honor of the Sletvold family, the first settlers in the township. Well, as I drove across the township something began to fall from the sky on my pony, into my buggy and even right in my face. At first, I did not know what it was, but it was not long before I found out that the precipitation was—the humble grasshopper. It was my first experience with the grasshopper in swarms, for they literally did swarm up and down the valley. I soon noticed that they had begun their deadly work—the grain in the fields, the vegetation in the gardens, all things green along the roadside showed the effects of their rapacious appetite. The waving grain of the previous day was a grievous ruin, the gardens which the wives of the farmers had so carefully tended were now in ruin. Hardly a head of wheat was left on the stalk and the garden vegetables were not only gnawed off to the ground, but in many cases even the roots had disappeared. In the case of even onions the hoppers had not only eaten the stalks, but even the very root of the onion, so that nothing was left of it except a hole in the ground where it grew.

FOURTH OF JULY CELEBRATION, 1870.

The first public celebration of the natal day of our independence was held at Pleasant River, Tordenskjold township, in 1870. I am not certain, but I think this was the first big celebration of its kind in the county. Despite the sparsely settled surrounding country a large number of people gathered in the grove on that day for the occasion. Long tables were placed under the trees at the dinner hour and the women loaded them down with the best that the family larders contained. I only wish that I could give you my readers the bill of fare which was spread before us that day. We had no "spread eagle" orators that day, but there were several patriotic papers read. As I look back over the forty-six years which elapsed since that celebration, I find the names of a number of the people there that day firmly fixed in my memory as if the event had occurred but yesterday. Again I see seated around the table on that day Alleck Johnson, the Beardsleys, Hammers, Kinneis, Frones, A. B. Larsen and Taral Olsen—all of St. Olaf; then there

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were the Dahl and Branvaldt families from Tumuli; Tordenskjold was represented by the Hoffs and Ihlsengs, Stoutland and the Jensen brothers, the families of Juelson, Lee, Skjordal, Bjorgo, Knud Peterson, Peter Larsen and Christian Johnson and his parents; Dane Prairie had sent John Grimset, Tyge Tygesen, Christ Hansen, and N. P. Hansen; from Aurdal there came the Torguson brothers, Nels E. Nelson, John and Edwin Anderson, and the three Holland brothers, Jonas, Michael and Ole. Practically all of these families came to this celebration in large lumber wagons drawn by oxen. Few of those sterling pioneers are left; a new generation has arisen; but we of that day were as truly patriotic as if we had ridden to the grove on that July day in 1870 in our automobiles. May our children and our children's children be as loyal in their devotion to this land of ours.

FIRST BRIDGE IN FERGUS FALLS.

I have a very definite recollection of the first bridge, a palsied, frail structure, which was thrown across the Red river in Fergus Falls. The whole village turned out to assist in the work—there were counts, preachers, lawyers, merchants, farmers and a few Rip Van Winkles. All were interested in establishing dry foot connection between the two parts of the "Coming City." The boss of the job was Ernest Buse and the chief engineer was Peter Johnson, who was ably assisted by the Kalling brothers. This bridge spanned the river on Union avenue and was built in the spring of 1871. Buse afterwards, in a public statement, said that the bridge cost seventy cents and five gallons of whiskey. The latter was probably provided in order to give the bridge the proper strength and lasting qualities, although this is a question about which history is not definite. The bridge had both qualities for only a short time.

MORE REMINISCENCES OF O. JORGENS.

Among the loose records of the Otter Tail county commissioners was found an unsigned and undated letter which had been tied up for more than forty-five years in a package of stray papers. In searching for material for the present volume this letter turned up and every effort to identify the author met with failure. He was evidently one of the earliest settlers and a man of more than ordinary intelligence, judging from the letter. It was suggested finally that the letter be submitted to O. Jorgens, now of Minneapolis, who was one of the most prominent men in the early history of the county, and who might be able to fathom the mystery of the letter. Strange things happen in fiction and things equally as strange in real life. Mr. Jorgen's reply by return mail cleared the mystery with the words: "This letter is my own letter." In answer to an inquiry concerning the appended letter, Mr. Jorgens says:

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'I came from Mower county and the letter you sent me was the copy of my own letter to the *Mower County Transcript*. The name of the newly elected county treasurer in Mower county was J. Irgens." In the same letter to the editor Mr. Jorgens, speaking reminiscently of various things, says that "In the fall of 1869 I walked past Fergus Falls and found M. Wright's home at the crossing. The house was vacant at the time. I don't think I ever saw the governor's appointment paper of Mr. Whiting (Whiting was appointed auditor by the governor in 1868) or the commissioner's either. I didn't know that any such officials existed until I received notice of my election (as auditor) in the fall of 1869. Soon after I had received my certificate of election I went over to Clitherall to see Mr. Whiting (Sylvester). I do not remember that there was any official business done until March 8, 1870. Mr. Whiting was a very religious Mormon and disliked to have anything to do with worldly affairs. We couldn't very well do anything before we obtained a set of county records. The county didn't own a sheet of paper nor have a dollar in its treasury.'

"My first efforts were to negotiate with Mr. Driscoll of the *St. Paul Pioneer Press* for records, and it took several months before I got them. I am not positive the *Pioneer* was with the *Press* at this time, however, it was through Driscoll that I got the records." [Mr. Jorgens is a little in error in regard to the *Pioneer Press* in 1869. The consolidation of the two papers was not until later. Mr. Driscoll was with the *St. Paul Press.*]

In speaking further of the railroad which was supposed to pass through Otter Tail City, but did not, Mr. Jorgens has the following to say: "I have always felt sure that Thomas Cathcart's refusal to yield to the demands of the railroad company forfeited the chances of Otter Tail City to become a station. I often heard Judge Reynolds, R. L. Frazee and E. G. Holmes say, in discussing the unfortunate termination of the railroad project, that the line north of Rush lake was much more expensive to build than the one between the lakes. [Mr. Jorgens means between Rush and Otter Tail lakes.] I was not indifferent about this affair at that time."

The census records of 1860 returned two hundred and forty residents of Otter Tail county and every effort has been made to ascertain something about this early group of settlers. In reply to an inquiry concerning them, Mr. Jorgens, who took the census of the county in 1870, has the following to say of these inhabitants of 1860: "The people who were enumerated in 1860 were mostly teamsters, surveyors and their helpers, Indian traders, land locaters, etc. Many of them were sojourners here and not settlers; others were half-breed Indians. There was in Otter Tail City a family, the man a Canadian-Scotchman, the wife an Indian squaw, the name was Mc————, who had many children. I think this family was in Otter

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Tail City in 1860. Old Donald McDonald lived there in 1860 and was still there when I first saw the town in 1870. He was a very old man and he told me the woods were full of his children by several squaws. He had lived in Otter Tail City a long time. He was an Indian trader—in whiskey. I got acquainted with two French-Canadian brothers by the name of Bellanger, who had been in Otter Tail county since 1860. Nearly all the white people left the county in the fall of 1862, at the time of the Indian massacre, but these two brothers came back—poor farmers and poor men. I cannot recall the name of an old Yankee who lived in Otter Tail City in 1860 and came back after the massacre. He had a few acres under cultivation and a few cattle, but he left shortly after I came here in 1869."

The story of the mail robbery is told in detail by J. W. Mason elsewhere in the history, but since Mr. Jorgens was very much interested in the capture of the robber and the recovery of the mail, it seems appropriate to note what he has to say about it. Says Mr. Jorgens: "I presume you have the history of the mail robbery. I had ordered all the plats of the surveyed townships in the county from the surveyor-general of the state, and it happened that they were en route to Otter Tail City in the mail bag which was being carried the day of the robbery. All the plats were torn out of the mail pouches and scattered about the bushes, but we found everyone of them."

One of the most graphic word pictures handed the editor of this volume is the picture which Mr. Jorgens draws of Otter Tail City in 1870. "I will tell you a story, a true one, that I will never forget. At the time the Northern Pacific railroad was being built on the north side of Rush lake, the company had brought its stores and tents into Otter Tail City. [This was in 1870.] With this legitimate railroad business there followed an army of gamblers and sporting women. I went home to Wall Lake Saturday and came back to Otter Tail City the following Monday. On my return on Monday my eyes beheld a sight, when I first saw the county seat, which will remain with me as long as I live. Forty-eight hours had changed the appearance of the little village on the lake until I could hardly trust my eyes. When I left Saturday evening there were probably not over eight or ten houses. But when the village loomed up before me on Monday there were not less than forty buildings scattered up and down the beach. When I reached the village I saw men and women in fashionable clothing promenading the beach of the lake and along the streets. The town looked like a fairy city; many of the roofs were in tin covered, others displayed roofs of painted oil cloth. Everything seemed as if the touch of Aladdin had transformed an erstwhile prosaic hamlet of a dozen houses into a flourishing little city several times as large. Things began to happen in the county seat

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within the next few days. The commissioners granted ten or fifteen saloon licenses within the next few days. The gambling tents were filled night and day with men trying to get rid of their money. And there were other places of business which carried on a thriving trade and separated the hard working laboring men from their weekly wages. And this triple industry, triple because the three were controlled by one group of men, flourished like the bay tree for three or four months. Bands were hired to assist in the operation of relieving the unsophisticated of their worldly possessions, on the theory probably that music hath charms to soothe the aching breast. Such was Otter Tail City for a few months in the summer of 1870."

1870 LETTER OF O. JORGENS.

The letter written by Mr. Jorgens in 1870 and found after a lapse of forty-six years among the commissioners' records of Otter Tail county is given here as it was written:

My old visitor, the *Mower County Transcript*, came to my cot, on the bank of Red river, a few days ago. It was certainly charming to see such an old, dear friend out here. I regarded it almost miraculous that it could find its way to me out here. Old friends down home, you better believe I inspected the little giant. I could hardly believe my own eyes. I had often been tempted to believe the little warrior was torn to pieces in the last fall campaign, but I am now indeed convinced of the contrary; it has not received a single wound, but has gained in vigor and experience. I discover, also, it has changed editors. My friends, Collwell Brothers, have, as I infer from the paper, begun farming and Mr. Ottise has taken the rudder. I am not acquainted with Mr. Ottise, but, judging from the paper and the information I have, I congratulate you all. A friend, with a true member and able editor. I see also Mower county has complimented my countrymen by the election of J. Irgens. Good luck—I believe you will never regret it. I had not heard much of Mower county politics before the *Transcript* came, except a few words in *Nordesk Folkeblad*, where I saw such names as friend Larsworky, Page Pelfer and a few others in connection with the county convention at Ada. The greatest portion of a year has now elapsed since I left Frankfort. I started from the last-named place the first day of June last and my destination was Otter Tail county. I arrived after three weeks' travel and made a claim in township 133, range 42, about one hundred rods from Red river. [This would be some place in Aurdal township.] This river is a pleasant stream and affords many excellent places for mills, etc. I prosper very well here and I call it a beautiful country. Timber, meadow and plow land are nearly equally divided and I believe this county beats other counties in the state on fishing chances. The Northern Pacific Railroad will not be laid far from here. Tools and provisions are coming to Otter Tail City now as fast as they can haul it, for the road. Our county is now organized. Our county seat is established at Tordenskjold. It is not much of a place yet, but we are sanguine for its future.

Mr. Editor of the *Transcript*, I pray you will print my letter, so my English-reading friends down home, as you like to call it, may know where I am. I should like to write a letter to every one of them. It is certainly my duty toward many American friends who assisted me continually.

Thus ends this letter and it is apparent from the context that the writer was enamoured with Otter Tail county and was desirous of acquainting his friends with the fact.

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CHAPTER XXXI.

REMINISCENCES OF THE EARLY HISTORY OF OTTER TAIL COUNTY.

By E. E. Corliss.

Some of my friends and the publishers of this volume have urged me to contribute to it an article on the early history of the county. It gives me great pleasure to comply with their request, although with misgivings as to the general value of the story I shall tell. I may fail to instruct or even interest my readers, but one feature of the article may redeem it—I shall take pains to make every statement true. As to much of the history narrated, I may well say in the words of Caesar: "All of this I saw, and a great part of which I was;" at least, I shall strive to present only the facts as I saw them and can now recall them. Further than this the deponent sayeth not.

Having been admitted to the bar of the district court of Fillmore county, Minnesota, in the spring term of 1870, I was anxious to try my chances in some new county. I wanted to grow up with the county and be a part and parcel of it,—but the question was, where should I locate? I had heard flattering reports of what nature had done for Otter Tail county and I finally decided that I would cast my lot with that county. Accordingly, I packed my few belongings into my "prairie schooner," hitched my two faithful horses to it, and, with my wife, three small children and a young girl, Rosa Wallace, who was then living with us, climbed into the wagon and started for our new home. I had not the slightest idea where I would locate, once I reached the county, although I had dimly planned to hang out my shingle in Otter Tail City. Our wagon was to be our day coach as well as our sleeper, our diner as well as our observation car—and such it was for the two weeks which it took to make the trip from Chatfield, Fillmore county, to St. Olaf in Otter Tail county.

I cannot digress to tell of the journey. Each day found us nearer to the promised land and, as the weather was very delightful, we thoroughly enjoyed the trip. On the evening of July 3, 1870, we finally arrived at the home of my brother-in-law, William H. Beardsley, who had located in the county the previous year. I might say in passing that a great majority of the early settlers of Otter Tail county came here in similar conveyances, although a majority of them drove oxen.

The following day, the Fourth of July, we drove over the Leaf mountains, through Eagle Lake township to the place of my brother, William M. Corliss, who had located on the west of the Clitherall settlement. We

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arrived just in time to participate in the festivities of the day. My brother had a log house, standing in a clump of beautiful white oak trees. We stayed here for several weeks, sleeping in our covered wagon box the meantime, while I was out prospecting, getting located and building a house.

On the 5th of July my brother and I drove to Otter Tail City, a distance of sixteen miles, for it was in that "city" I intended to erect a tablet or sign "E. E. Corliss, Attorney and Counsellor at Law." I had dreamed that I should add fame to that romantic city, which Gen. John Pope had visited in September, 1849, and left such a beautiful tribute to the fertility and grandeur of this section of the state among the records of the war department at Washington, D. C. [Note.—This report of which Mr. Corliss speaks is given in full elsewhere in this volume.] General Pope got his view of the territory surrounding Otter Tail lake from his canoe, but had he seen it as I did, from my wagon on the top of Leaf mountain, his description would have been even more flattering to the country. As I am writing this forty-six years after my first view of the lake my mind pictures still the impression it then made on me. Truly, Otter Tail lake is the center of the park region of Minnesota; its placid waters, its tree-girt shores, its banks, level here and precipitous there, render it one of the most beautiful bodies of water to be found anywhere. This region of the state, with its innumerable clear lakes, fringed with the noble oak and other trees; its prairies, covered with the beautiful little prairie rose; its hills, in some instances approaching the dignity of mountains, rising here and there against the blue sky; all this comes back to me as I recall that 5th of July, 1870, when I first beheld Otter Tail City nestling on the shores of Otter Tail lake. Amidst all this fascinating scenery I almost forgot about my law office in Otter Tail City.

And how did Otter Tail City look to me on that day in July, 1870? As we drove down the streets of the "city," my efforts were directed toward making a survey of the general prosperity of the place, its inhabitants, and the advisability of hanging out the insignia of my profession. Briefly stated, this is what I saw: C. H. Peake, who was running an Indian trading post, was the only merchant. There were two old Scotchmen, Donald McDonald and James McDougall, both of whom had Indian wives and numerous children. Both of these Scotchmen had settled here very early, and as far as I know, were the only settlers in the county in 1870 who had lived here prior to 1862. If there was another to return after 1862, it was John Bishop, who probably lived in Otter Tail City in 1860. It is certain that he was living on a farm between Balmoral and Otter Tail City in 1870 and even several years after that. In addition to the three men with their families above mentioned, there was R. L. Frazee, who had just put up a steam saw-mill. His head sawyer was Byron Lent, and there were also two

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other men working in the mill. With the exception of the saw-mill and a number of Indian wigwams, Otter Tail City looked just as it did in 1858 when Marble sketched it. [NOTE—This sketch of Marble's of which Mr. Corliss speaks is printed elsewhere in the volume.] With these people whom I have just enumerated for my clients, my dreams of retainers faded. Here was a county seat town and not a sign of a court house, not a county official lived here, and this was the place about which I had dreamed. Some wise man has said that dreams are made of strange things, and I am sure that on that never-to-be-forgotten day of July, 1870, I could most heartily have given utterance to this aphorism.

Beautiful scenery is all right to look at and it is what has drawn thousands of people to this county, but my family demanded something more substantial—it satisfied the eye but not the stomach. It was not sufficiently sustaining to make it a daily article of diet. It was evident to me that the legal profession was not going to be very lucrative for sometime to come. Fortunately, I had taken a lot of lessons before the Civil War in farming in Winona county, Minnesota. Naturally, with circumstances such as I found them, my mind turned from the legal to the agricultural profession, and the next day I proceeded to file a preemption claim on a quarter section of land, (northeast quarter ten, one hundred and thirty-two, forty) two miles west of the Clitherall settlement and went to farming. I broke twenty acres of ground, but did not put out my first crop until 1871. I built the first frame house in the county from lumber sawed in Frazee's mill in Otter Tail City, albeit I had to sell my horses and wagon to indulge in this extravagance. I built a log stable, dug a well, filled my cellar with rutabagas which I pulled on the shares and bought half of my brother's potatoes in the field.

One day in October I took the oxen, went to the field and dug and picked up twenty bushels of potatoes. I loaded my potatoes, hitched up my oxen and started for the house, tired and thirsty. I stopped at the house of my brother on the way home to get a drink of water. When I came out all I could see of my potatoes was the hind wheels of the wagon going over a steep bank of thirty feet. The next instant found me traveling at a rapid pace down the road in the general direction of the potatoes; I might live throughout the winter without the oxen and the wagon, but the potatoes I must have. When I reached the bank of the lake and looked down into its cooling depths, there was my wagon upside down, my potatoes in the water, and my oxen peacefully drinking in the lake. There was only one thing to do. I righted the wagon, patiently picked every potato out of the water, hitched up my oxen and went on my way rejoicing. I think my wife

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was rather pleased with the near catastrophe—the potatoes were all well washed.

Clitherall was the first settlement in the county after the Indian trouble of 1862. It was settled in 1865 by about twenty families of Latter Day Saints, or Mormons, as they are usually called. These people were all members of the original Joseph Smith church. After the murder of Smith by a mob at Nauvoo, Illinois, some of the original Mormons refused Brigham Young's leadership and his advocacy of polygamy. Those who rejected the polygamous doctrine of Young separated from him and chose as their leader one Cutler, and after his death, Chauncey Whiting. These leaders, in the eyes of their followers at least, had all the singular powers of St. Peter himself. These people were very zealous in their belief, and thought they were the only church in the world with divine authority in all ecclesiastical matters. Most of them were Americans, and all of them were honest, law-abiding people, good neighbors and patriotic citizens, firmly believing that the Mormon Bible and the Christian Bible were both inspired.

The Mormons claimed to have been directed to Clitherall by a dream which one of their elders had of a land between two lakes, with an abundance of prairie and timber, and convenient bands of Indians whom they were to convert to the Mormon faith, and thus civilize and save them from their paganism. Accordingly, a small band of these good people made the long overland trip through Illinois and Minnesota to Otter Tail county. They brought with them their cattle, sheep, horses and all kinds of tools. The men were nearly all farmers, although there were a number of skilled artisians among them. Edward Fletcher was a good blacksmith; Marcus Shaw was a stone mason and plasterer; Chauncey Whiting, their priest and prophet, was a fine mechanic and could make all kinds of furniture, but gave most of his attention to wagon making; "Uncle Al" Whiting was a chair maker; "Uncle Vet" Whiting was the storekeeper, postmaster and a famous hunter.

By 1870, when I first came to the county, there were about fifteen men with their families in this settlement. Their names as I recall them were as follow:. Mr. and Mrs. Chauncey Whiting, Lewis Whiting and Sylvester Whiting—a year or two later another brother, Almon Whiting, his wife and children joined them; Hiram and Lyman Murdock; John, Albert and Edward Fletcher, three brothers and their families, all large families with children grown to manhood and womanhood and some of them married; Isaac, the oldest son of Chauncey Whiting, Warren Whiting, Rueben Oaks, Sr., and James Oaks, his son; Marcus Shaw, Jeremiah Anderson, Jesse Burdock, and a full-blooded New York Indian by the name of Dana, with his white wife;

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Thomas Mason and a Mrs. Mason, widow, and her daughter; Charles Taylor and the two McIntire brothers, Joseph and Sylvester.

I always understood that there were twenty-five families, but I cannot make out but about sixteen married couples and four bachelors, making twenty households besides the children. Then there were a few families belonging to the church, who, as I recall it, came up to Clitherall with those just enumerated and later settled at Detroit. The settlers in Otter Tail county took up as homesteads about all the land between Clitherall and Battle lake. Much of this land taken by them lay in a strip about one mile in width; that is, they took a strip four forties wide from the north shore of Clitherall lake to the south shore of Battle lake. They opened up a road along the north shore of Clitherall lake and built their houses, barns, etc., along this road, so that the whole settlement was in a compact group. They erected a log church with a secret chamber in which they worshipped for more than fifty years. In recent years they have erected a fine little church and razed the old building which had served them so many years. In the early seventies the community a sort of commune, or, as they called it, "The Oneness." All property was to be turned into the church. All grain and provisions were to be placed in the church granary and issued to members by the storekeeper. When they adopted this rule the members of the community, although not wealthy, were very prosperous; but under the new system all or nearly all they had laid up was soon exhausted and little or no property was left in the store or in the hands of the members. So they broke up the "Oneness" and returned to their original mode of life and were soon again prosperous.

The community, as a Mormon church, has scattered. Many have joined the Joseph Smith, Jr., branch; others have left the church or moved away. Now there remains only a small number of the faithful who are struggling to maintain the Cutlerite branch of the church, and keep the divine authority at Old Clitherall. These faithful old settlers had built beautiful homes on this tract of land. Old Clitherall, like Otter Tail City, once the commercial, political and religious center of the coutny, is today beautiful only in death.

I cannot dismiss this historical settlement without mentioning one ludicrous incident. John W. Mason and I tried a criminal case before Jesse Burdock, a local justice of the peace in the Clitherall community. The case was the State of Minnesota vs. John Campbell. Campbell was arrested on complaint of his wife, charged with assault with intent to kill. I remember Mr. Mason, as usual, put up a strong fight for the defendant. He would raise one strong point after another, and after setting forth the arguments in favor of each point, his honor, the Justice, went out behind the barn and

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engaged in prayer. Each time on resuming his judicial chair he decided the point in favor of the state. Campbell was bound over, and the court allowed him to go north to get bond. He went to Canada and was never again seen in the county.

During the summer of 1871 James McNaughton and a boy held up and robbed the stage running between Alexandria and Otter Tail City, at that time driven by one Pattin. The holdup occurred about two miles west of Craigie's mill between Otter Tail lake and the Everts prairie. This stage line was owned by the Minnesota Stage Company and carried the United States mail, passengers and express. The robbers ordered the driver to throw off the express box, an iron box, which he promptly did. There was only one passenger on the stage and during the excitement incident to the throwing off of the express he escaped and started in the direction of Clitherall as fast as he could go. The robbers took the express box, forced it open and took all of the money—about thirty dollars. The stage driver, on being allowed to resume his journey, lost no time in getting to Otter Tail City to tell the news of his robbery. It was not long before all the settlers far and near had heard of the holdup. A posse was formed near Battle Lake and when they saw the passenger trying to escape they seized him as the robber, and, so I was told, they actually had a rope around his neck before he, in his double fright, could explain himself. I at once sent word in every direction and notified the authorities at Alexandria of the robbery. I sent out a sheriff with a warrant to Alexandria as we were pretty certain they went that way. Before he reached there the sheriff of Douglas county had arrested both of the robbers, but Mr. Randolph, their county attorney, refused to give them up to our sheriff. The Douglas county attorney arraigned and committed them to jail pending the October term of court, claiming that Otter Tail county was still attached to Douglas or something of that kind. As Otter Tail county had no jail, and there was none nearer than St. Cloud, I made no further efforts to obtain custody of the robbers. The boy later escaped, but McNaughton was too badly shot at the time of his arrest to make an escape. Douglas county finally sent McNaughton to St. Cloud, in Stearns county, for safe keeping and later that county turned in a bill of two hundred dollars to Douglas county for boarding the said McNaughton. Knute Nelson, Douglas county's next attorney, by direction of the county board, sued Otter Tail county for this board bill. Judge McKelvey sustained my demurrer to their complaint.

I must tell a little incident connected with this robbery case. I saw our district judge and he assured me that he would order McNaughton turned over to the sheriff of Otter Tail county whenever I sent for him.

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I sent for McNaughton just before our November term of court. It happened that I was getting ready for winter by plastering my house. I had Marcus Shaw, the county treasurer, doing the plastering, and I was his office boy. In other words, it was my duty to mix the "mort" and carry it up to Shaw. I had on my second best clothes and they, including my hat and shoes, were as well covered, plastered I should say, with lime as a novice could get them. While I was thus attired the general manager of the Minnesota Stage Company drove up to my place in a top buggy and inquired for Mr. Corliss. I informed him that I was the man in question. "But," said he, "I want to see the county attorney." I, while admitting I was not dressed with dignity becoming to that office, was nevertheless and notwithstanding the county attorney of Otter Tail county. He vouchsafed me one more glance and, with his nose and heels in the air, turned and left me without further inquiry.

The first and only general term of the district court for Otter Tail county was held in Otter Tail City in November, 1871, with Hon. James M. McKelvey, district judge presiding. The members of the bar present, besides myself as the county attorney, included Hon. John W. Mason and Newton H. Chittenden, of Fergus Falls; Judge R. Reynolds and W. F. Ball, of Otter Tail City, and J. W. Mower, of Alexandria; William M. Corliss was clerk of the court and W. H. Beardsley was sheriff. I shall never forget the ministerial appearance of Mr. Chittenden as he appeared in his Prince Albert coat, his dignified poise, with a large navy revolver strapped about his waist and a set of long Mexican spurs on his boots. He surely attracted the attention of the whole court. At this time there were only a few small civil cases, most of them being appeals from justice of the peace courts. There were two or three minor criminal cases. James McNaughton was indicted for robbery, tried and convicted. Judge Reynolds defended him. I have forgotten how long he was in prison, but he died there before his term was up. The indictment of McNaughton was the first returned in Otter Tail county. At the time of this court Otter Tail City was by far the largest settlement in the county.

CRAIGIE'S MILL.

James G. Craigie, his wife, and Annie Faulkner, daughter of Mrs. Craigie and step-daughter of Mr. Craigie, came to the United States from Aberdeen, Scotland, and settled on the east shore of Otter Tail lake in 1868 or 1869. He built a grist-mill on the outlet of Crane, Clitherall, East Battle, West Battle, Blanche, Minnie and Battle lakes. He put his dam across the outlet a few rods from the shore of Otter Tail lake. He was not able to get much waterfall, but in those days there was a good flow of water, ample to run a two- or three-stone flour and feed grist-mill.

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This mill was completed in the fall of 1870 and settlers came from a radius of twenty or thirty miles with grists. This was the first grist-mill north of Alexandria. It was much needed and in a very short time was overrun with grists, becoming a fortunate investment for its owner. Soon Mr. Craigie was out of debt and had money to make further improvements.

Craigie wrote a letter to some magazine in Aberdeen, praising this new country and advising his friends to come here. John Cromb saw this letter and wrote Craigie. Finally Cromb, and a woman, whom he claimed to be his wife, came to Craigie's mill (now known as Balmoral). They stopped with the Craigies for about a year and then moved to Detroit in Becker county.

In the summer of 1872 Cromb's lawful wife came from Scotland. She claimed that Cromb had left her in Scotland and that he and the woman he represented as wife had come to America together. She wrote to me about Cromb and I advised her to come here and sue for a divorce. I met her at Craigie's on Tuesday. We had arranged to go to Detroit on Friday of the same to commence proceedings.

Before Friday came, however, she, Craigie and his wife, went out sailing in a small boat on Otter Tail lake. The boat, being weighted heavily with stones for ballast, swamped and sank to the bottom in about ten feet of water.

Craigie had no children. His reputed daughter, Anna Faulkner, ran away from her mother and married a half-breed Indian named Archie McArthur. He testified in court, at Otter Tail City, a few weeks before the drowning, in a suit she brought against James G. Craigie, that she was not Craigie's daughter. But after his death she claimed to be his daughter and heir, and two juries in Otter Tail county said by their verdicts that she was. I feel sure that not one of these twenty-four men for a moment believed that she was. She won this mill and all of Craigie's property as a result of the suit being decided in her favor. She and her husband let the mill run down until it became worthless and it was finally shut down and later sold. After losing all their property wrongfully given her by the jury, McArthur and his wife went on to the Indian reservation at White Earth. She soon died and later, I understand, McArthur died. Cromb moved to Crookston and became receiver of the land office, and was prominent in the business and political circles. He and his wife also died and today there is not left a single actor in the Craigie mill drama (even the mill itself has totally disappeared) to tell its history except myself, and I only do it in order to preserve the true history of the case for future generations.

At the annual meeting of the old settlers' association of Otter Tail

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county held in Battle Lake in July, 1910, I read a paper recalling some of the important events in our early history. I cannot do better than give the substance of this article, bringing it down to date, to conclude my contribution to this volume.

I came to the county July 3, 1870, and in the fall of the same year was elected county attorney. I had a good deal to do with all the early history of the county, especially the legal part of the organization of townships and school districts and the establishing of roads. In fact, all county, town and school officers were without precedents or any books or forms to guide them and nearly all were serving their first term as such officials; so that the county attorney was very near to all of them and had more or less to do in guiding and advising them. Few of today can realize the amount of detail this involved. When I look back over the history of this county for the last forty-six years and note its progress and what it is now with its present system of records in all the offices, county, town and school, I cannot but admire the great progress which has been made all along the line. While they were doubtless many irregularities in the books and records of these early officers, I am glad to say there were very few criminal acts committed by them.

ORGANIZATION OF THE COUNTY.

The first act of the Legislature of 1858, which was the first Legislature under the state after its admission, was the act establishing Otter Tail City as the county seat, which was approved March 18, 1858. By chapter 94, of the Special Laws of 1870, the Legislature attempted to locate the county seat on the southwest quarter, section 32 (at Hoff's Mills) in the township of Tordenskjold, without submitting the question to the voters, however. By chapter 85, of the Special Laws of 1871, the act of 1870, establishing the county seat at Tordenskjold, was repealed, as the act itself explains that this act was unconstitutional in not submitting the question to the voters of the county.

I was never able to learn who got this act through, removing, or attempting to remove, the county seat from Otter Tail City to Tordenskjold. Otter Tail county was then (1870) in a legislative district represented by H. C. Wait, of St. Cloud, in the Senate; and by Isaac Thorson, of Pope county, and John L. Wilson, of St. Cloud, in the House. Tordenskjold as a county seat had a short life; the county commissioners did, however, hold one meeting there in January, 1871. It was here I qualified as the first county attorney, the other county officers having all been elected in 1869; viz., Ole Jorgens, county auditor; M. Shaw, county treasurer; J. H. Saunders, register of deeds; William M. Corliss, clerk of court. They also appointed a county superintendent of schools. The county commissioners were Mar-

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tin Fiedler, of Marion Lake; Aleck Johnson, of St. Olaf, and Hans Juelson, of Sverdrup.

ATTEMPTED ORGANIZATION OF HOLCOMB COUNTY.

The Legislature of 1871, by chapter 99 of the General Laws, approved March 6, 1871, provided for the establishment of Holcomb county, by taking in range 44 of Wilkin coutny, or what was popularly known as a part of that county, and ranges 41, 42 and 43 of Otter Tail county. The name was given in honor of Hon. William Holcomb, of Stillwater, who was the first lieutenant-governor of the state, "Father of the Normal School system," etc., and who had died in the fall of 1870. The act provided that the question of establishing this county was to be submitted to the voters of Wilkin and Otter Tail counties at the general election to be held in November, 1871, which was done.

This question of a division of Otter Tail county brought on a warm contest in Otter Tail county, and was defeated here by a good majority, but Wilkin county, which had no organization, nor any right to vote upon the question, as was subsequently decided by the supreme court (66 Minn., p. 32, in the range 44 case), had some election precincts established and they gave a large majority (as compared with the vote on other questions) for the formation of Holcomb county. Especially was this true in the precincts including Norwegian Grove, Trondhjem and Oscar as now organized. Nearly every settler in these precincts favored the formation of Holcomb county. The act for the organization of the new county provided that a majority of the voters in each county could vote for the proposition in order to effect its adoption. Wilkin county gave the required majority, but Otter Tail did not, and so the proposition failed. The act providing for the organization of this county established its county seat at Fergus Falls. I went with others into the precincts above named to oppose this formation, and we were told by nearly everyone we saw that it was in every way more convenient for them to come to Fergus Falls to do their county business than to go to Breckenridge; that in fact they would be obliged to go by the way of Fergus Falls to get to Breckenridge as they were unable to cross the big slough west of the settlement. Relying upon these statements made to me, and upon the vote of these people to come to Fergus Falls as their county seat, I felt that it was safe to attach this range to Otter Tail county the next year so far as they were concerned.

ACQUISITION OF RANGE 44.

In the fall of 1871 I was elected to the Legislature, and then the guessing began. The Northern Pacific railroad, which was supposed to go via Otter Tail City, had been built via Niganoma, the first station north of Rush

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Lake, which was a little east of where Perham now is situated, where the best and only hotel was a large tent in which we slept with forty below zero weather during the winter of 1872. The St. Vincent branch of the St. Paul & Pacific railroad whose grant apparently compelled the building of its line via Otter Tail lake, had secured a ruling by the secretary of the interior that the company could build its railroad via Fergus Falls, and still comply with the provisions of the land grant. The railroad company had changed its route from Otter Tail City to the present line by way of Fergus Falls. So Otter Tail City was left out as a railroad possibility. It was claimed at the time that the Northern Pacific would have gone into Otter Tail City but that the owner, one Thomas Cathcart, of Crow Wing, would not give the company any part of the land.

When I went to St. Paul to take my seat in the Legislature, in January, 1872, the conditions were these: There was a small settlement at Parkers Prairie; also one around Rush Lake; and quite a pretentious village at Otter Tail City, the county seat, which seemed to have no chance of getting a railroad. The principal settlements at that time were in and around Clitherall, Eagle Lake, Maine, Tordenskjold, St. Olaf, Tumuli, Dane Prairie, Aurdal, Buse and Fergus Falls town and village. In the Pelican valley there were Elizabeth, Erhards Grove and Pelican Rapids. The majority of the settlers were in the middle and southern part of the county. Wilkin county had voted to add range 44 to Holcomb county. Otter Tail county had voted against the proposition to divide itself and attach three ranges to 44 to make the proposed Holcomb county, with Fergus Falls as its county seat.

No one could even then claim that we could hold the county seat at Otter Tail City without a railroad; no one thought at the time that we could prevent a division of the county. In fact, Otter Tail City men advised me to introduce a bill to divide the county and give Fergus Falls the county seat of the west half; but this did not solve the question about Otter Tail City as the county seat of the east half; nor was there a clear way to determine what we could do about a county seat there. It must either be at Otter Tail City, Niganoma, Parkers Prairie, or perhaps at Clitherall, which, by the way, had the largest settlement at that time.

In 1872 there were very few settlers north of the Northern Pacific railroad or east of Otter Tail City. I had not up to this time located in any village, but was still living on my homestead on Lake Clitherall, waiting to see where the new county seat was going to be located. I must confess that I was feeling sad to see the chances of Otter Tail City gradually but none the less surely fading. I was hardly on speaking terms with the people at Fergus Falls, as I had opposed the formation of Holcomb county at the last election. Thus matters stood when I went to St. Paul in January, 1872,

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to attend to my duties as a legislator. After getting there I felt that the responsibility of deciding the momentous question was too much for me, so I concluded to return home and have a conference with my friends who had fought against the formation of Holcomb county.

I got all the leaders in that fight together and candidly laid the whole situation before them and asked them their advice as how to proceed—whether it was best or not to agree to a division of the county. I was very much opposed to a division at that time, owing to conditions in the eastern half of the county. Clitherall, the largest settlement, was in the extreme western part of the east half and also far to the south; Parkers Prairie was a flourishing village, but it, too, was badly located for a county seat; Perham, in the north half, offered the same objections. There seemed to be but one alternative if division were to be avoided—to move the county seat to Fergus Falls and at the same time attach range 44 to the county. My friends and I agreed that this was the most feasible plan, and I went back to St. Paul with my mind made up as to just how to proceed.

It might be well right here to give a little history of Wilkin county, as the plan finally adopted had so much to do with that county. The first Legislature after Minnesota became a state divided all the hitherto unorganized portions of the state into counties, section 223, of chapter 1, of the General Statutes of 1858, established Toombs county and defined its boundary as "Beginning at the junction of the Bois de Sioux river with the Red river of the North (which would be at Breckenridge), thence down the Red river of the North fifteen miles (this would be near McCauleyville), thence east to the Pelican river (which would be through the township of Erhards Grove), thence down the Pelican river to where it intersects the Red river of the North, thence due south to the Chippewa river (this is an impossible line, as it would never strike that river), thence in a direct line to the mouth of late Traverse, and thence down the main channel of the Bois de Sioux on the west boundary line of the state to the place of beginning."

It will be seen that this included a part of range 43 in Otter Tail county and leaves out Norwegian Grove, Trondhjem and a part of Oscar in range 44, and all of northern Wilkin county, and probably included the northern part of Traverse county as well as a part of Grant county. But to add to the confusion created by this act, no surveyor could possibly follow its lines and described. When Bob Toombs became a rebel, the patriotic state of Minnesota promptly changed the name of Toombs to that of Andy Johnson and at the same time attempted to correct its boundary by making the north line of the county the present north line, and the line between ranges 43 and 44 its eastern boundary; and at the same time leaving out the

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north end of Traverse county, but including the township of Lawrence in Grant county.

President Andrew Johnson, for whom the county was renamed, having by a change in his political policy, offended the radical Republican Legislature of Minnesota, was responsible for having the county christened a third time. The Legislature in 1868 changed the name of the erstwhile Andy Johnson county to that of Wilkin, in honor of Major Alexander Wilkin. Major Wilkin was in the Second Minnesota and afterward colonel of the Tenth Minnesota. He was killed in the battle of Tupelo, Mississippi, July 14, 1864. The Legislature took no more chances on living men, but forestalled any possible contingency by naming the county after a dead hero. And thus was Wilkin county in 1872.

WILKIN COUNTY IN 1872.

In 1872 there were a very few small settlements in Wilkin county; a small group of settlers at Breckenridge, a few settlers and squatters along the Red river, but the largest number were to be found in range 44. There was no county organization, no county seat, and all that I knew about the county at all, was what I heard from the settlers in range 44. A committee of three Breckenridge and McCauleyville men came to St. Paul to see me about organizing the county and locating the county seat. Of course, they wanted the county seat at Breckenridge at the terminus of the new railroad. I told the committee that I had promised to attach range 44 to Otter Tail county; that the settlers on that range claimed that they could not get from the settlement in Norwegian Grove to Breckenridge without going through or near Fergus Falls; that Otter Tail county did not want any of their territory without their consent and to accommodate the people, and would not take it. As I recall, this committee consisted of J. R. Harris, Ruke Messer, and a man from Breckenridge whose name I do not now remember. I told the committee to return home and talk the matter over with the settlers of Wilkin county and see what they wanted; that I would carry out their wishes as soon as I heard from them. In a day or two the committee came back to St. Paul to see me again and informed me that they had agreed to have the county organized, leaving out range 44, and making Breckenridge the county seat. Therefore, as may be seen, range 44 was attached to Otter Tail county with the consent of the leaders in Wilkin county from which it was detached.

RANGE 44 ATTACHED AND FERGUS FALLS MADE THE COUNTY SEAT.

I then introduced a bill to attach range 44 to Otter Tail county, the act providing for the submissal of the question to the voters of Otter Tail county at the next general election, November, 1872. Wilkin county was not

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authorized to vote on the question. I then introduced a bill to remove the county seat from Otter Tail City to Fergus Falls. This second act was to be ratified by the qualified voters of the county before it went into operation, and this was done by a substantial majority at the election in the fall of 1872.

OTTER TAIL CITY PARTISANS INDIGNANT.

These radical legislative measures of course engendered "war along the line" and I need not tell you that my friends and I came in for severe criticism, at times amounting almost to personal abuse. There is perhaps nothing which stirs up quite as hot a fight as a county seat removal and, next to that, a division of a county, and Otter Tail county had a taste of both at one time. Otter Tail City was naturally furious at what I had done. When I returned from St. Paul after the session I came through the town and stayed there over night. The people did not kill any fatted calf for me; in fact, they treated me very coolly. I heard no exclamations from its good citizens of "Well done, thou good and faithful servant." As could have been expected the northeast part of the county was solid against both measures in general and against Corliss in particular. The eastern and middle parts of the county were divided, but all the small politicians especially were up in arms to condemn all I had done. Those who were satisfied said but little, but voted for the measures.

REMOVING THE COUNTY SEAT AND RECORDS.

At the general election in November, 1872, the people voted to annex range 44 to Otter Tail county, and on the same day voted to remove the county seat from Otter Tail City to Fergus Falls. I have often heard it claimed that Ole Jorgens and myself went to Otter Tail City in the night and unlawfully carried away—stole them, so our enemies said—all the county records, a statement which is maliciously false. I know that I was not there at all. I do not know whether Jorgens was or not, but I presume that he was since his office was there. I am sure, however, that the moving of the county records was done in full accordance with the law and not in any surreptitious manner as has been so frequently alleged in the past by some people. They were removed under the direction of the county commissioners, Martin Fiedler, of Marion Lake, Hans Juelson, of Sverdrup, and Alex Johnson, of St. Olaf. Mike Anderson, as I recall, the newly elected sheriff, had immediate charge of the removal.

ALL'S WELL THAT ENDS WELL.

After very many years of observation and experience I think it is a fact that these legislative acts and the approval the people gave them during the formative period of this county have had more to do with the

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county's development, its present wealth and influence, than all the subsequent legislation of more than forty years since that time. I think that those acts were decisive of the county's present condition and promising future. I do not think that the old settlers, the most of whom favored the proposition, believe now that it would have been better in 1872 to have left off range 44; nor do I think that they would leave the county seat at Otter Tail City with the prospect of having the county later divided into three or more small and poor counties. I do not claim that all our present prosperity and greatness is due to the acts of the early settlers, or that there has not been since that time vital and needed legislation for the county. But I do claim that the acts of the early pioneers made it possible for this county to become great, wealthy and influential.

LEGISLATIVE CHANGES.

It might be noted that our present ninth congressional district comprises only a part of our then legislative (the 41st) district. All of northwestern Minnesota was included in it, and yet at that time we had only one senator and two members of the lower house of the Legislature. In the same territory we now have six senators and thirteen representatives, and this same section of the state is now demanding additional representation in the state Legislature.

PIONEER COUNTY OFFICIALS.

As I have previously stated, the county board of commissioners which met in January, 1871, was composed of Martin Fiedler, Alex Johnson and Hans Juelson, all faithful and intelligent men. To them should be given the credit for starting in motion the machinery of the county. Under their efforts the following townships were organized in the years 1870, 1871 and 1872: Parkers Prairie, Dane Prairie, Fergus Falls, Eagle Lake, Elizabeth, Otter Tail, Pelican, Erhards Grove, Buse, Rush Lake, Aastad, Hobart, Scambler, Maine, Nidaros, Perham, Effington, Norwegian Grove, Western, Deer Creek, Oscar, Trondhjem and Gorman. Five townships had been organized in 1868 and 1869: Clitherall, Saint Olaf, Tumuli, Tordenskjold and Aurdal.

They also organized many school districts in those years, besides laying out and opening up numerous roads over this broad county. Highways were badly needed to connect the widely scattered settlements and the records of the commissioners during the first few years are more than half taken up with petitions for roads. On an average it may be said that four-fifths of the minutes of each meeting cover just two subjects—roads and schools. Besides this work the commissioners had to provide temporary offices for the county officials, and between 1872 and 1874, they had to provide everything from pens and ink to a court house and jail. All their acts have

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become history and their friends may look back with pride at their official careers.

SOME EARLY SETTLEMENTS AND SETTLERS.

The little settlement which began at Clitherall in 1865 and at Rush Lake in 1867, Mormon and Catholic, respectively, and both dissenters from the mother church, are today practically extinct; both have been swallowed up by other and stronger churches.

Parkers Prairie was really the first to be settled by nonpartisan religious settlers and there were found representatives of several of the religious denominations found in the county today. The real farmer settlers commenced to settle there in 1868, when G. A. Lindquist, Henry Asseln, J. G. Nelson and other men of sterling character staked out their farms on the prairie. Lindquist afterward became county treasurer and commissioner; Asseln was the first merchant of the village and one of the wealthiest men of the county at the time of his death; J. G. Nelson was a county commissioner and later a state senator and one of the strongest politicians of the early days. Then there were such men as Ben Pease, Ed. Livernash, Jacob Saunders and Charles Swenson, the latter coming direct from Sweden. And they came from many other countries from across the sea.

From the Fatherland came the sturdy German; the staunch and reliable vikings from Norway were early on hands; there were the descendants of the Puritan Yankees of New England; and everywhere the professional empire builders of the middle west. The early pioneers of the county comprised nearly a score of tongues, but they went to work in peace and harmony to till the soil and establish homes in this paradise of the state. No one questioned them as to their nativity—whether Yankee, Norwegian, Swede, Irish, German, French, Canadian, or Finnish. All mingled together in the various sports and social affairs common to those days. Everyone was welcome in every other home in the community, whether we said "yes," "ja," or made use of any other language in expressing what we had to say. We worked together as one large family; all were intent on one thing, and that was the establishing of homes in this fair county for ourselves, our children and our children's children. How well we succeeded you of today may see. You who are enjoying these broad and well-cultivated acres today should be reminded once in a while of the struggles of your fathers and mothers on these same farms during the early seventies and even for several years afterwards.

The friendships formed in those days have borne fruit in the intermarriages of the pretty "Norsk jenters" to their neighbor's Yankee "Bill," the German "Hans," the Irish "Pat" or to anyone of a half dozen other nationalities. A few generations will produce a strong and virile type of men and

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women in this county—men and women whose blood will have the best characteristics of all these many peoples. The Norwegian, the Swede, the Dane, the Irish, the German, the Pole, the Finn, the French, the English, and native American will have mingled their blood to make a race of people who will carry the torch of civilization forward to future generations—and all loyal citizens of the Stars and Stripes. Truly, Otter Tail county well exemplifies the oft-repeated statement that America is the "melting pot" of the world.

I may be pardoned for saying a word regarding myself in this connection, since I take it, I know more about myself than any other person. I have lived in Otter Tail county all the time since 1870, and in Fergus Falls since it was the county seat, and during all of these years have been a practitioner before the local bar. I was county attorney from 1870 to 1875, and from 1879 to 1887, but since that time have not been in politics for myself. However I have helped my friends in ways politically as the occasion arose and have no regrets on this score. I was on the committee which located the state hospital at Fergus Falls and contributed my share to the fixing of the site at our home city. I was also in Washington, D. C., in time to get the postoffice changed from Hoyt's corner to the Nangle corner, and later made a second trip with John W. Mason to Washington for the purpose of preventing Congressman Frank Eddy and Elmer E. Adams from getting it relocated at the Hoyt corner. While they did not succeed in having their way, yet, by a masterly stroke of diplomacy, they got the assistant secretary of the treasury, Horace Taylor, to go back on his pledge and compromise on the "Johnny Schei chicken lot." I never quite forgave either of them for this move until I saw the completed building. I think I prefer the coffin store on the Nangle corner to the present location, but, of course, opinions may differ. I am simply stating my own.

I have lived in Otter Tail county long enough to see it change from the most beautiful country by nature to a wonderful county of well cultivated farms, comfortable homes everywhere, with scores of flourishing villages and cities, with fine highways threading the county; I have seen the broad prairie of wild grass give way to equally extensive fields of waving grain. The few hundreds of settlers in 1870 have grown to fifty thousand and the county has plenty of room for that many more within its limits. Today we travel in our automobiles over the same roads on which our fathers drove their patient ox teams. I suppose that fifty more years will see our children flitting from one corner of the county to the other in their flying machines. Yet, when I think back to that day in July, 1870, I wonder whether future generations will enjoy life any better than we, the pioneers of the seventies.

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A half century will soon have passed away since the first permanent settlers came to this county. We old settlers are fast leaving for a newer country; day by day our ranks are growing thinner; the old order changeth. So it has always been and so will it always be. It is so ordered in this world and we would not change it if we could. It is for you who follow in our footsteps to so conduct yourselves and the affairs of the county that old Otter Tail, the greatest of Minnesota's counties, will continue to be the best place in the world.

EDMUND A. EVERTS.

One of my most intimate friends in Otter Tail county was the late Edmund A. Everts and I want to take this opportunity of setting down for future generations some of the main facts of his life. Born in Carroll county, Illinois, November 12, 1840, he removed with his parents, Rezin and Sophronia (Preston) Everts, to Winona county, Minnesota, in 1855, where he was living when the Civil War opened.

I first met Comrade Everts in 1856 at Fremont, Minnesota, when he was sixteen years of age, and knew him intimately from that time until his death. I knew him as a pioneer boy of the early pioneers of the territory of Minnesota, as a volunteer soldier in the Civil War, as a citizen soldier after the war, as an early pioneer of Otter Tail county, and finally as a business man in the village of Battle Lake. In all this time I never knew him to do a crooked or unmanly act.

On June 26, 1861, he enlisted in Company A, Second Minnesota Volunteer Infantry, for a period of three years; re-enlisted as a veteran on December 15, 1863; discharged as a sergeant on July 11, 1865. During the summer of 1861 he was stationed at Ft. Ripley with his company guarding our frontier forts. In October, 1861, he left Ft. Snelling with his regiment for Washington, D. C. At Pittsburg orders were countermanded and the regiment sent direct to Louisville, Kentucky.

He was in the campaign to Mill Springs, then back to Louisville, thence via Nashville to Pittsburg Landing. Thence he went to Corinth, thence east to Tuscumbia, and from there back north into Tennessee and down into Georgia. From there he was transferred back to Louisville, following Bragg's rail toward that city. He was at the battles of Perryville, Nashville, Murfreesborough and Tallahoma. Later he went through Alabama and Tennessee to Chickamauga. He was in the famous march through Georgia to the sea with Sherman, and then north through the Carolinas and Virginia to Washington, D. C.

I never knew him to be sick or on detached duty a single day, or miss a battle or a duty in all this long service. Few, indeed, have such a record. He was in more than twenty battles, and this does not take into considera-

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tion the scores of skirmishes in which the old Second regiment was engaged during its march to the sea. In none of these battles or skirmishes did he receive a scratch; I always thought he had a charmed life.

Mr. Everts was one of the first to enlist and he stayed until the last Rebel threw down his gun against the government, was present at the surrender of Lee and proudly marched up the broad streets of Washington with his great commander on that grand and glorious day in May, 1865. On that memorable occasion he was the same modest, painstaking soldier, as he ever was a citizen. He was a brave soldier, a true friend, and absolutely an honorable man in all his dealings and actions from the cradle to the grave.

I learned to know him as a messmate and chum, where the cant, hypocrisy and restraint of society were unknown; where men were known for what they really were. It was there I learned to know, admire and trust one of the noblest, truest, and most unselfish men I have ever known. I am proud to have always been his friend; he had no enemies. In fact, his fully rounded life was a success, but the greatest asset he has left his family and friends is his honorable life.

Mr. Everts settled in Otter Tail county in the spring of 1871 with his wife, Rosella, and settled on a homestead in section 27, in the town of Everts, lying between the northwest end of Battle lake and Silver lake. In this immediate vicinity he finally acquired nearly a section of land. He farmed for ten years with great success, but after the building of the Fergus Falls branch of the Northern Pacfic railroad he rented his farm and moved to Battle Lake, where he lived the rest of his life.

He went into the lumber, flour and feed business in Battle Lake and carried it on very successfully until his death, on March 9, 1915. He was interested in the old Winslow bank in Battle Lake, and never failed to lend a helping hand to all worthy enterprises in the village. Shortly before his death he took his son, Frederick, into business with him. He left his widow, one daughter, Maie, the wife of W. J. Sernblad, the clerk of the district court of Douglas county.

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CHAPTER XXXII.

REMINISCENCES BY JOHN W. MASON.

JOHN WINTERMUTE MASON.

By Ernest V. Shockley.

In every community there are certain men who are looked upon as leaders in their profession and it is surprising how accurate an estimate is placed upon them by their fellowmen. Go into the average city of less than ten thousand and ask anyone of a score of men who the best physician is and they will nearly all agree on the best one of the dozen or more the city happens to have; the same unanimity of choice may be found in any one of several professions. There is probably no profession where the attainments of its members vary so widely as in the members of the bar. Every city in the state of Minnesota has its full quota of lawyers and Fergus Falls is no exception to this rule. This appreciative study concerns the career of the oldest member of the bar of this city—a man who has ranked at the top of his profession for forty years.

The city of Fergus Falls was conceived in the fall of 1870, born in the spring of 1871 and christened by the Legislature in 1872. Shortly after its birth, and before its name had been officially applied, there came driving into it one hot afternoon in the summer of 1871 a lawyer. The village was still in its swaddling clothes; it would have all the ills and ailments incidents to the toothless stage of human kind; it would, to continue the metaphor, cause its progenitor trouble, as its teeth began to appear; but, like unto the puerile stage of the man who conceived it, there would come days when it would need a strong guiding hand to keep its citizens in the straight and narrow path of civic rectitude; but it was sure to grow. All this and more flitted through the head of the young man who came driving a heavily-loaded wagon into the village on June 7, 1871. Just such a place—a place where men would not always observe the Ten Commandments of their own free will and accord—was the one for which this young man was seeking. In other words he was a lawyer. His name was John Wintermute Mason.

The years have come and gone since the eventful day; forty-five times has the earth made its annual pilgrimage around the sun in its orbit; the village of a hundred or two has grown to a city of eight thousand; the dreams of its founder have been realized; two generations of men and women have come and gone. And the young man, poor in purse but rich in ambition, who climbed down from his dusty perch on the top of his

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wagon on that hot afternoon in the summer of 1871, has lived to see all this transformation take place.

He has been a part and parcel of its very life from the beginning. The children of the village who learned their alphabet in the first school he helped to organize in the spring of 1872 are now men and women with gray hair—grandfathers and grandmothers, many of them. Of the business and professional men who saw his tall figure for the first time in 1871, scarcely a one is left to tell the tale. Truly may it be said that the life of the Hon. John W. Mason is coincident with the life of Fergus Falls. Future generations of dwellers in this city on the Red river of the North may read of the men who have helped to make it; they will recall the names of some score of worthy men who helped to guide the struggling village and direct its growth to the end that it has become the city it is today. High on this list of men, occupying a prominent niche in the hall of fame of Fergus Falls, may be read for all time to come the name of John W. Mason.

A century hence, people of this city will be reading the history of the Otter Tail county which bears his name, and will wonder what sort of a man he was and what he did that entitles him to an honored place in its annals. Therefore, it becomes the duty of the chronicler to set forth briefly at this point certain genealogical facts of the man. Although a lawyer, his entry into this world was not unlike that of other men. His natal day, October 6, 1846, found his father and mother, Harley Carpenter and Clarissa (Hazen) Mason, then living at Lapeer, Michigan.

Nothing out of the ordinary happened to him in his boyhood. He passed through the trials and pleasures of his childish days just as have countless millions of boys; he went to school in the winter, worked on the farm in the summer and played the rest of the time. The opening of the Civil War found him just fourteen years of age and too young to gratify his martial desires. However, as soon as he was old enough to enlist he volunteered and his name may be found as a member of Battery B, First Minnesota Heavy Artillery. The war closed, however, before he saw any active service. Immediately after he was mustered out of the service, he returned to the school room to complete his education. He spent three years in Groveland Seminary, Dodge county, Minnesota, and one year at Carlton College, Northfield, Minnesota. He was twenty-two years of age; his boyhood days were over, and it behooved him to think seriously of finding some vocation in life.

He did not want to be a farmer; he had no desire to enter the ministry or the medical profession. He finally came to the conclusion, after an introspective study of himself, that the legal profession offered the best opportunities for him. To this end he entered the law office of G. B. Cooley,

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of Mantorville, Minnesota, in 1869, to prepare himself for his life work. Being of a studious bent and analytical turn of mind, and having an able preceptor, it was not long before he was ready to be admitted to the bar. Thus the year 1871 found him prepared to engage in the profession to which he has since devoted his entire attention.

The next question to decide was the place where he should locate. Many a man, the lawyer as well as men in every calling in life, has gone to his grave unhonored and unsung for the reason that he failed to locate in the place best suited to his own individuality. Many a lawyer has hung out his shingle in the wrong town. The Bible says that young men have dreams and old men see visions. Whether young Mason was a biblical student the biographer does not undertake to state, but, judging from his future career, history must record that he had both dreams and visions.

In the early spring of 1871 he started to Independence, Kansas, a boom town of eighteen hundred at the time, with a friend, George Smith, a brother lawyer. Young Mason had nearly one hundred dollars when he left home, but so high was the cost of living in Independence that within ten days he saw that he had just enough left to pay his fare home. Since there were already twenty-seven lawyers in Independence, he decided that he would not be the twenty-eighth—and left the city. On his return home to Minnesota, he met Major Whallon, stepfather of the Lowry brothers, later residents of Fergus Falls, who suggested to him that he go to Rochester, Minnesota, to see one George Head, who was on the point of settling in a new town in the northern part of the state by the name of Fergus Falls. This was the first time Mr. Mason had ever heard of the "coming city," but he decided, after hearing the glowing account of Head, that he would investigate the possibilities of the place. The fact that Head offered him free transportation to the town if he would drive one of his teams, was another fact which induced him to make the prospecting trip. Accordingly he helped Head pack his household goods, mounted one of the wagons, and headed his team in the direction of the county and city whose history he was to write forty-five years later.

And so it came to pass that John W. Mason drove into Fergus Falls on June 7, 1871. It must have taken a man with an unusually keen insight into the future to foretell the future possibilities of Fergus Falls in 1871. It was not a county seat town, and at that time there was small prospect that it ever would be such. Certainly it promised little in 1871 when the first settlers were rearing their rude log cabins here and there on lots donated by the owners of the townsite. It may be supposed that young Mason did some serious thinking during the first few days after he arrived.

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Should he remain awhile and see whether the place promised a livelihood or should he return home and look for a more favorable location. It is given to some men to forecast the future with an almost uncanny prophetic vision, and it must be admitted that young Mason either did this, or else, to use a Hoosier expression, he was "all-fired lucky." He had to do something, and at once. He had but two dollars in his pocket when he landed and that amount would not last long, even in Fergus Falls in 1871. The story of how he lived for the first year is told by Mr. Mason in his Reminiscences. Suffice it to say that he decided to stay, to cast his lot with the "coming city."

Forty-five years have passed since that June day of 1871 and during all of this time Mr. Mason has been an intimate part of the city's career. From the spring of 1872, when he was elected clerk of the first school district of the village, he has taken an active part in the advancement of every phase of the growth of the city. He was the first mayor of the city in 1881. He drew its first city charter in that year, drafted the second one two years later, and, as president of the charter commission in 1902, formulated the charter under which the city is now governed. Other public offices have come to him. He was mayor a second time in 1893-94; the youngest member of the lower house of the state Legislature in 1874; a member of the board of trustees of the Fergus Falls state hospital for the insane from 1891 to 1901; a member of the first board of education of Fergus Falls for four years and its first president. Thus it may be seen that Mr. Mason has taken an active part in the civic life of his community, a part which has brought him no pecuniary reward, but which allowed him to use his ability for the welfare of his fellowmen and the betterment of the life of which he was such an intimate part.

All of his work as a public servant of the people, however, has not interfered with his career as a member of the bar, but, on the other hand, has undoubtedly been of benefit to him. Man does not live unto himself in these latter days. If he measures up to the best that is in him he must bear his full share of the problems which confront the community in which he lives. This Mr. Mason has done, not from selfish motives or personal aggrandizement, but that Fergus Falls might be a better city and able to say to all the world—This is the best city in the state. It is to such men that the city owes a debt of gratitude which it can never repay.

But future generations will want to know something of the legal work of this man who has done so much for the city of his adoption. Within a year after he came to the county he was elected county attorney, but certain circumstances, over which he had no control, kept him from entering upon the duties of that office. During the seventies he was gradually build-

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ing up his practice and growing in ability to handle difficult cases of all kinds. His reputation as an orator were early recognized and history records that he was chosen to make the Fourth of July address in 1876 in his home town. But the decade was not all sunshine; he had to struggle as do all young lawyers in frontier towns; there were ups and downs—cases won and cases lost.

One bright spot in the career of Mr. Mason in the seventies was the beginning of his domestic life. While attending Groveland Academy in the latter part of the sixties he met Fannie S. Safford and this chance acquaintance resulted in the two young people plighting their troth before they left the academy. No doubt, if history were to tell the whole truth, this fact was instrumental in taking young Mason to Independence, Kansas, and later bringing him to Fergus Falls. Be that as it may, it was not until 1875 that he felt himself sufficiently well established to ask her to share his joys and troubles. They were married on June 9, 1875, at Red Wing, Minnesota, settled in Fergus Falls at once and here they have continued to live since that day. They have no children.

With the added responsibilities which followed the establishment of a home, Mr. Mason plunged into his legal work with renewed vigor. His reputation as a practitioner before the local court brought him cases from adjoining counties. With the advent of the railroad in the latter part of the seventies he became interested in railroad legislation. He attracted the attention of the railroad officials because of the cases he won against them, and his ability in handling these cases finally resulted in the Great Northern offering him a position on their legal staff.

The career of Mr. Mason as attorney for the Great Northern from 1883 until he resigned from their employ in 1910 took him into all parts of the state and brought him all the business he could handle. During part of the time he had a partner. It might be mentioned here that his first partner in the seventies was Bert Melville, whose inability to distinguish himself between different kinds of bars, legal and otherwise, finally lead to a dissolution of the partnership. More of this same Melville is told by Mr. Mason in his Reminiscences. He next associated himself with Edwin M. Wright, under the firm name of Wright & Mason, and this second partnership lasted from 1873 to 1875. The next three years he had J. P. Williams as partner. Following the dissolution of this partnership Mr. Mason practiced alone until 1888, when he formed a partnership with C. L. Hilton, and they continued together until Mr. Hilton was elected county attorney, in the fall of 1898. Since that date Mr. Mason has practiced alone.

The twenty-seven years Mr. Mason spent with the Great Northern as one of their attorneys were filled with hundreds of cases which he handled.

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His ability is amply testified to by the fact that the company kept him in their employ as long as they could and parted with his services most reluctantly in 1910. Some idea of the amount of business he handled for the company may be seen when it is known that in one year he had no less than seventy-one cases pending. The records will show that he appeared before the supreme court of the state oftener than any other country lawyer in the state. He was frequently called to St. Paul to try cases when the other attorneys of the company were very busy. From 1904 until his resignation, six years later, Mr. Mason handled all the company's cases north and west of St. Cloud; in fact, the work became so onerous that he gave up his private practice and devoted all of his time to the business of the company. Since 1910 Mr. Mason has done very little legal work and has not sought cases of any kind. His long service has brought him a sufficient competency so that he is able to live the remainder of his days in peace and quiet. He is now devoting himself to literary and automobile pursuits. It is hoped by his friends that he will leave for posterity some of his reminiscences which he has felt would not be exactly appropriate for this volume. He has intimated that he intends to characterize certain phases of his county's history for future publication. It is needless to say that future generations will read this product of his pen with the same avidity with which his writings in this volume will be scanned.

One more phase of the life of Mr. Mason remains to be noticed, namely, his literary ability, as shown by his written and delivered addresses. For more than forty years he has been before the people of the county as a platform speaker on all sorts of occasions and on all kinds of subjects. He seems equally at home when pleading before a jury in the court room or when appearing before a woman's club with a dissertation on their duties as members of society. He has been frequently called upon to assist in political campaigns and in the presidential campaigns of 1896 and 1900 he was employed by the Republican state committee as one of their special speakers, delivering speeches in all parts of the state during the progress of the campaign. His experience in these two campaigns may account for his antipathy toward Bryanism, free silver and kindred men and measures. He has been a wide reader of the best literature and is able to illustrate his speeches with extracts from the writers of all ages. His anecdotes, with which he adorns his speeches, have a peculiar aptness that always gives what he has to say a pleasing piquancy of expression. As a raconteur he has few equals in his home city, while his quick repartee makes him a delightful conversationalist.

But it is in his character sketches that Mr. Mason is probably at his best. Proof of this may be seen in the keen character delineations which

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he has portrayed in this volume. As a result of his long practice before the court, he has that keen and incisive way, suggestive of his legal training, of summing up the strong and weak points of a man or an incident and setting them forth in such a way that the reader gets a striking picture of the man or incident so characterized. The writer of this sketch came to Otter Tail county in the fall of 1915, not knowing a single person in it, and yet after reading Mr. Mason's pen picture of such old pioneers as Jake Austin, he feels that he is well acquainted with the burly old New Yorker. The ability to select just such characteristics as will best portray a man is the happy gift of Mr. Mason, and this faculty, added to this facility of expression, gives all of his writings of this nature a fascinating charm of their own. He has been a frequent contributor to the papers and magazines on a wide variety of topics, but it is safe to say that it is his character sketches which will remain his best contribution to future generations of Fergusonians.

Such, in brief, is the life of the man who is the editor of this history of his county. The general editor of the publishing company who has charge of the history came to Fergus Falls in September, 1915, and during the succeeding two months worked on the official records in the court house and collected miscellaneous data of all kinds. During all of this time he was in constant touch with Mr. Mason, who had agreed to assume the general editorial supervision of the history. He came back to Fergus Falls in the first week of February, 1916, and spent more than two months in completing the work on the history. A project of this kind depends very largely upon the local editor, and the publishing company always endeavors to get the best man in the county to have general charge of the history. The editor of the publishing company believes it is due to Mr. Mason to say in this connection that he has performed his part of the work faithfully and well. The historian has learned to know him intimately during a period of more than four months daily companionship and has written this appreciative study to prefix his Reminiscences. This article concerning himself is the only one in the volume which he has not read and the only one which is going into the history without his knowledge. The historian has worked in many counties in several states and has found that no history, especially when of such a local nature as a county history must necessarily be, can meet with the approval of everyone. In the case of Otter Tail county, there are many people living yet who were here when the county was organized.

The historian mingled with the people of the city of Fergus Falls long enough to convince himself that it has indeed been a city of factional fights and that personal prejudices are very much in evidence in places. The writing up of some phases of the city's history has for this reason been made

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difficult; in a few instances things have been left to future historians to handle. The historian has noticed the extreme care taken by Mr. Mason to state all facts in an impartial light, and yet with all the possible care which he has exercised there will be some who might have a different view of some disputed questions. It can be truly said that the work of Mr. Mason has preserved for the county many facts which in a few years would have been lost forever. It is the opinion of the historian that no man in the county could have done the work of supervising such a publication in a better or more efficient manner than Mr. Mason. His time during the past six months has been given wholly to the work, and the historian wishes to take this final opportunity for expressing the debt which he owes to him for his hearty co-operation in the history from its inception until the completed manuscript was ready for the printer. The first history of Otter Tail county has been written; it is left to future generations with the hope that many valuable facts have been preserved which otherwise might have been lost to posterity.

THE COMING TO FERGUS FALLS.

On a beautiful afternoon in the month of June, 1871, I first entered the "Coming City," as Fergus Falls was designated in the George B. Wright advertisements, writ by a master hand and read as a curiosity.

George Head moved with his family and household goods from Rochester, Minnesota, to Fergus Falls, and, to pay my passage to the New Elderado, I drove one of his teams. The caravan consisted of three "prairie schooners," with a phæton hitched behind one wagon, in which rode Mrs. Head and her sister, Miss Nelson. We were ten days on the road, camped out, slept in the wagons, and ate our meals beside the camp fires. Mr. Head had previously made one or two trips to the town, and was largely interested in property here, the title to which he cautiously took in the name of Morris D. Cutler, his brother-in-law, who lived in Wisconsin.

While Wright and Mendenhall were the real proprietors here, still the man most talked of was Ernest Buse, a Dutchman of great enterprise, whose property consisted mostly of equities. He was a typical optimist, full of alluring visions of great wealth just a little ways in the future. He thought and talked in "thousands," and could inspire hope and confidence in his victims to a greater degree than any other of the many Fergus boomers. I had heard so much of this man Buse that he was the one particular person I was anxious to see when we reached Fergus Falls.

About four o'clock in the afternoon of June 7, 1871, I was driving in the van of our procession, approaching Fergus Falls from the south, along what is now Union avenue South. As we were nearing the river, and just

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before reaching what is now Bismark avenue, we met a man, well dressed, of quick action, wearing a pair of neat gauntlet gloves, and seemingly on business bent. He was walking at a rapid pace and evidently with a purpose in view. It came to me at once, that this man must be Buse, and I scrutinized him as closely as possible as he passed us. My mind was disabused that same evening when I met the real Buse, a heavy-set, broad-bottomed Dutchman, who waddled when he walked, with his legs about a foot apart. It was quite a "come down" from the mental picture formed of the great and only Buse. The man we actually met proved to be Dr. R. M. Reynolds, the first physician in Fergus Falls, who was on his way to look after the building of his little log house at the corner of Union and Junius avenues. He came to Fergus Falls from Rochester, Minnesota, where he married Miss Helen Cowles. She was not here at the time, but waiting to come as soon as the home was finished.

The only bridge across the river was at a point just west of the west line of Union avenue, where the Red River Milling Company's mill stands. It consisted of two log stringers, reaching from shore to shore, which supported small, round poles laid on them, and these poles were covered with straw or hay.

Mr. Head had purchased, and expected to move into, a log house where Buse then lived, situated about three hundred feet east of the Kaddatz residence. Buse had built what was, at that time, a large, square frame house on the present side of the Kaddatz house, but, on account of the sickness of Mrs. Buse, had not moved into it when Head reached Fergus Falls with his family. This necessitated our camping in the wagons for about a week till Mrs. Buse was able to be moved.

The day of our arrival had been a pretty strenuous one and I was tired. So about nine o'clock I crawled into my wagon bed, glad to think of the good night's rest awaiting me, with no occasion for early rising. I had just lost myself in peaceful slumber when I was awakened by the most unearthly racket that ever disturbed the sleep of civilized man. Shouts, horns, guns, cow bells and tin pans and cans all burst forth on the quiet night with their devilish din, and I was scared. No use to deny the fact, I was rigid with fright. We were out on the frontier, on the very edge of civilization, and my first thought was that we were attacked by Indians. I soon realized that the noise came from downtown, about three blocks away. Long before it ended, I came to know that a callithumpian serenade was celebrating the first marriage in Fergus Falls.

The next morning I wandered downtown to learn more about the night's disturbance. I dropped in to Sim's place. He kept a drug store in the front of the building, where the Scandia State Bank now stands, and

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a "blind pig" in the rear. He was the pioneer in the drug business, and inaugurated the system, which has prevailed ever since, of housing "sightless pigs" in the rear of drug stores.

In the "blind pig" department of Sims' store that morning I met an old gentleman, about seventy-five years of age. His hair was white, and his long beard likewise. The fingers of his left hand were crippled and crooked, and he had the habit of almost constantly combing his whiskers with his crooked fingers. "Nefarious" was a favorite word in his vocabulary. The day before, he had married a widow by the name of Mary Harsh. She was well along toward seventy, and would tip the scales at near two hundred and fifty. This couple were the ones honored by the previous night's demonstration.

Sims was a good deal of a wag who would sacrifice business at any time for a joke. With a very solemn face, he said: "Mr. Vickery, were you disturbed last night?" The old man set down his glass, commenced combing his beard, and, after a moment, said: "Now, I'm sayin' it to you, Mr. Sims. Just as I was gettin' into bed with the old lady last night, that nefarious noise commenced."

Soon after coming to Fergus Falls, I formed a partnership with Bert Melville under the firm name and style of "Melville & Mason, Attorneys at Law." These two legal lights burned in unison till a few weeks later, when one went out. He extinguished and distinguished himself one night by eloping with another man's wife, and the burden of a precarious practice fell upon the junior member of the firm.

Our office was over Sims' drug store, in easy visiting distance to the "blind pig" pen, where Bert generally sought rest and solace from his arduous professional work.

Doctor Reynolds had his office with the before-mentioned law firm. Fleas in Fergus were thicker than flies in Egypt when Moses took his departure from that uncongenial country. The doctor was a sensitive man, particularly as to fleas, and to escape the plague at night he used to take his blankets, crawl through a scuttle hole in the ceiling and make his bed up there. Doctor Reynolds deserves more than a passing notice. He was a man who stood high in his profession; was learned in many branches outside of medicine, and had wonderful literary ability. His girl-like modesty to a great extent kept his light under a bushel, and none but his most intimate acquaintances fully appreciated his great resources. A student all his life, he read the classics as readily as his mother tongue, and could express himself in prose or poetry with remarkable felicity.

He could not make a speech in public any more than a mute; but, sit down with him alone, and he could talk by the hour and it would sound as

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though he were reading from a book. He had not been here long, surrounded by descendants of the old Vikings, before he could read their language with the best of them, and understand it as though it were his own. Though never strong physically, his work was strenuous. The country was sparsely settled and his rides covered a wide territory. In the winter of 1873, at the time of the great blizzard, the echoes of which have not yet died away, he was alone, and no physician to give him aid. Scores were frozen to death and many more crippled for life. He worked day and night, and performed numberless operations with no assistance except that of a young lawyer by the name of D. P. Hatch, who accompanied him and rendered such aid as he was able to give. Doctor Reynolds moved to California in 1895 and died at Redlands, in that state, in 1898, at the age of fifty-five.

"His life was gentle, and the elements
So mix'd in him, that Nature might stand up
And say to all the world, 'This was a man.'"

Until late in the fall of 1871, mail came to Fergus Falls but once a week. This was brought from Pomme de Terre, Grant county, in a two-wheeled cart, and deposited in the postoffice, a log building on Mill street just north of the First National Bank building. Henry Henningson, a German, was postmaster, and the boys used to declare that he could not read English. That accusation found some justification in his manner of handling the mail. Every Friday afternoon, about four o'clock, when the weekly mail was expected, the patrons would congregate outside of the postoffice, waiting for letters and news from civilization. When it arrived the postmaster would empty the contents on the floor, and each one could paw it over and help himself to such as he found bearing his address. Under this system one was liable to get mail for several days. Along late that fall the main line of the St. Paul & Pacific railroad was completed from St. Paul to Breckenridge. The nearest station on that line was Campbell, distant about twenty-five miles from Fergus Falls. From that time we had a daily mail, and felt that we were in touch with the outside world. George L. Nichols was taken into the postoffice as deputy postmaster, when our mail was distributed in Christian manner.

People are wont to look back at the "good old times" and deprecate the present. It is well, occasionally, to look back at those old times, and remember them just as they were. In these "good old times" all were praying for a railroad; willing to make any sacrifice; vote bonds and give right-of-way, depot grounds and the like to secure it. It is interesting to look back and think of what we were thankful for then.

In those days to go to St. Paul from Fergus Falls it took one day to

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Campbell by stage, at a fare of two dollars and fifty cents. Supper, lodging and breakfast at Campbell, one dollar and fifty cents. The next morning one took a mixed train which went as far as Willmar that day, and the fare was five cents per mile. Supper, lodging and breakfast at Willmar cost one dollar and fifty cents. The next, and the third day, landed one in St. Paul late in the afternoon. With a day spent in St. Paul and the down trip reversed, just one week was consumed in making this journey, at a cost of about thirty-one dollars for fare and hotel bills on the way.

Now, in these degenerate times, one can take his train, with diner and observation cars annexed, and go to St. Paul in five hours, at a cost of two cents per mile; and listen, as he enjoys his cigar in the smoking room, to denunciations of the railroads, their extortions, vile service and accommodations. We are wont to forget that but for the railroads, northern Minnesota today would be a buffalo pasture; and that within the last thirty years railroad rates have declined out of all proportions to the prices of other commodities. It makes one more contented to think of these things once in a while.

Times were dull, indeed, that first winter. Business, other than trade in rat skins, was dull and law business nil. The total receipts from that honorable profession were insufficient to pay for board at the Bells Hotel, the only decent caravansary in the place, and that not much to brag about. To live within our income, A. Branderberg, one time since president of the Fergus Falls National Bank, and now cashier of the First State Bank of Fergus Falls; William H. Smith, saloon keeper, and myself determined to set up "bachelor's hall" and board ourselves. Branderberg was to be the cook and housekeeper, while Smith and I were the providers. We fitted up a kitchen and dining room combined, in the back end of Smith's saloon, took our meals there that winter and came out in fair condition in the spring.

Along about four o'clock one afternoon in mid-winter, a young man, dressed in a Prince Albert coat, silk hat and low shoes, came into my office. He introduced himself as D. P. Hatch, a graduate of Kent Hill, Maine, and a lawyer. He was looking for a location in which to practice his profession. When he said he was somewhat embarrassed for want of money, I told him that there was nothing strange about that, as I knew other lawyers in the same condition. He asked me for a loan sufficient to pay the hotel for a week's board. I told him that I lacked the ready cash to comply with his request, but thought my credit at the hotel sufficient to meet his need; that we would try it anyway. I took him to the hotel, guaranteed his board for two weeks, and left him there happy. At the next election he was chosen county attorney of Otter Tail county. In the middle of his term he resigned, went to Santa Barbara, California, and was soon elected

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to the district court bench, and held the position for many years. Since his death, some three years ago, he has, by the hand of a female spiritualistic medium, written his experiences in the world beyond, and his amanuensis has published the book. If the medium's story be doubted, there is the book, published and on sale, in Los Angeles, California. What better proof can one ask?

The monotony of pioneer life was broken one day in the summer of 1871, when an excursion party came to the village, across country from the Northern Pacific railroad, then building north of us through Becker county. In this party were such celebrities as Bayard Taylor, Governor Hawley, Charles A. Dana and others whose names have escaped me. They camped on the bank of the river, ate, drank and walked on two legs just like ordinary mortals. It was on this trip, as they passed Elizabeth city, that Taylor discovered a "dam by a mill site, but no mill by a dam site." He used this expression, without quotation marks, in his written account of the journey and I think him the originator of it. This distinguished party was entertained by the villagers in a manner highly gratifying to all concerned; nor was the opportunity lost for a little advertising. The advantages of the "coming city" were duly portrayed; the mildness of the climate, invigorating atmosphere and open winters loudly extolled. After their evening meal the temper and mettle of our denizens were illustrated by Melville, who gave an exhibition with his trick mule. The mule was a natural curiosity. It was not much bigger than a yearling calf, and had developed as great a taste for beer as its owner had for whiskey, and would indulge its appetite at every opportunity, till it was hard to tell which was the drunker, Melville or the mule. Melville was always full, and on occasion would fill up the mule, and the trick was to see how far he could ride the brute away from Sims' "blind pig" in any given direction. They never got far, and Melville always laid it to the mule.

To see these celebrities laughing over the performance, showed that they had many traits in common with ordinary mortals. Taylor said he had traveled in many lands, observed human nature under many circumstances and conditions, but never before had he seen such manly traits in the mule. Of course, we all took pride in such a visit of notables, but it was a mere baby event to the one in store for us that fall. We had all heard and read of these men. Taylor's poems and travels were familiar; who that ever read the *New York Sun* did not want to see Dana? and a lively curiosity was felt in the whole party, but after all, they were only Americans. But when the great Gordon-Gordon, milord, a real, live English lord, set foot upon our soil, it seemed that the ground on which he trod became holy and consecrated to his greatness.

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"Great man; the people gazed and wondered much,
And all, to do him honor took delight."'

This Lord Gordon-Gordon was a reputed capitalist and philanthropist combined. He was expected to purchase and improve Fergus waterpowers; buy up and colonize with immigrants from the old world great tracts of land surrounding the coming city, and make our bleak wilderness one vast garden of fruits and flowers. To our credulity, nothing was impossible for milord. His very nod could change blizzard blasts to tropic zephyrs, and hang the horn of plenty within the reach of all. His lordship proved to be an imposter and a bastard, and the most meritorious act of his whole swindling career was the shooting himself dead when arrested in Winnipeg, where he sought refuge from crimes committed in New York.

Cities, like persons, have their individualities, and as the "child is father of the man," so early characteristics of a growing village, shape, in a measure, the character of a community after it has grown to city size. Our pioneers were a curious people in many respects, and as I look back I can see that they were a humorous people, though I never suspected it in those early days.

Like inhabitants of many new towns, they were divided into factions, and their humorous qualities were often exhibited in the conduct of these different factions towards each other. I used to think that those differences were real and in earnest, but can now see that many of them should have been taken in a Pickwickian sense. How could it have been otherwise? There was a young, ambitious town, with all the natural advantages which have so materially contributed to its present greatness. There was a people with one object in view—success—and to think they seriously stood in their own road to that success is hard to believe.

It would not be true to say that their quarrels assumed either a distinctively religious, political or social form. It mattered not what might be grading and sidewalking of a street, or the election of a pound master—the the project of one faction—was it for the establishment of a new church, the other faction at once saw in the scheme an ulterior design on the liberties of the people and the eventual destruction of the business prosperity of the whole community; and the humor of it was, they talked and acted just as though they seriously believed it. Of course, our city is altered and its growth has made many changes, but there is hardly an old landmark within the city limits that does not stand as a monument to some wordy battle of the pioneers. Not that these conflicts were waged where the monuments stand. No, they were fought at long range, around the headquarters of the patriarchs of each particular clan, while none of the enemy was present to molest or make them afraid. Whenever any of the opposition was present, everything was so quiet that it would have required the use of an audiphone

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to hear a peep. I do not recall that any real battles were fought, but I shudder when I think how near they came to it—in their mind.

CASUS BELLI.

The underlying cause of the factional war of Fergus Falls, which was of greater duration than the War of the Roses, is difficult to state with any degree of exactitude. It was, doubtless, due, in a great measure, to the temperamental qualities of the belligerents. It is not easy to get into the minds of men and see just what is taking place there, though the results of mental processes, when converted into action, may be readily noted.

Neither side in the War of the Factions ever put out a Blue Book or a Red Book, setting forth to the world their respective justifications, hence the underlying causes must ever remain a mystery. The very first act of hostility, undertaken without any open declaration of war, took place away back in 1871, when Jacob Austin commenced to grade down the hill on Lincoln avenue in front of his hardware store.

The east two-thirds of Lincoln avenue, between Court and Mill streets, was a high and level tract. At the west end of this level part of the avenue the ground took a sudden drop to the west towards Court street, so that Lincoln avenue at the last-named street was some thirty feet lower than at Mill street.

Mr. Austin erected a large store—by far the best building in town—at the foot of the hill. At his own expense he hired men and teams and set them to work grading down this hill. At that time there was no village organization; it was still a part of the township organization. Tige Ulwegan, a big Norsk, was pathmaster of the road district. Austin's men and teams had not been at work a great while before the opposition, in great haste and much perturbed, sought out Tige, who was a clerk in Cowing's store, and made complaint to him that Austin was tearing up and working ruin to Lincoln avenue; that such action was an outrage and a crime, contrary to the constitution and laws of the state, and that it was his sworn duty as guardian of the roads and streets of the town to suppress Austin's activities.

Tige was a cowardly kind of fellow, and did not have courage to resist the demands of the excited protestants. He promised to see Austin. He did. He came with tears in his eyes, and told how the "people" were objecting to the mutilation of the street. He disliked to interfere, but was bound by his oath of office to protect the thoroughfares of the district within his jurisdiction, and finally, in a lame kind of a way, ordered Austin to desist.

Jake heard him through very patiently, and when Tige's order came to stop work, he broke loose and said: "You and your 'people' can go to

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h—l. I won't grade the street, but I'll cut down my own side of it; and if you come around here again I'll kick you off the place, and you won't be able to deliver any more complaints for a month." Tige made a sudden exit, and Jake continued operations according to his proposal, and cut the hill down to the middle of the street, a distance of about four feet. In this shape it remained for over a year. One could tell to which faction a passerby belonged; those on Austin's side made use of the lower portion, while the opposition traveled the upper side, and the neutrals took to the middle. The latter excited most contempt in Austin. He could respect an antagonist, but despised a neutral.

Austin was right and public spirited in his undertaking. The street was afterwards cut down over twenty-five feet, clear below the bottom of the well on top of the hill, when the water disappeared from it, but the factional strift failed to follow the water of the well. That remained. That was the first battle of the long war.

In popular parlance it is common to designate the War of the Factions by adjective words as Rat war, Graveyard war, Church war, and so on. These terms simply distinguish different subjects of contention. It would be more accurate to name them as battle of the Graveyards and the battle of the Churches, ad infinitum. There was but one war, but many battles.

Of course, there were occasional cessations. The longest truce was when the grasshoppers came. Their "intervention" caused a suspension of hostilities. The combatants paused to inquire: "What must we do to be saved?" This brings us to

THE GRAVEYARD WAR.

At one time it was expected that there would be war, and preparations went so far that each faction secured for itself a separate graveyard. The question where the dead should lie was a live issue. One wing of the people fixed upon a certain locality, and that was a signal for the other side to don the war paint. Secret meetings were held, articles of incorporation adopted, books opened for sale of lots, and in an incredibly short time the young town had two graveyards running in full opposition, with a lively competition for subjects with which to colonize them. If a person caught a cold or showed the least indisposition, he was immediately waited upon by anxious and inquiring friends, and the beauties of these several last resting places pictured in terms almost inviting. And if that person, in an unguarded moment, was imprudent enough to express a preference for either place of interment, his social status was fixed from that minute. Old Settler had his finger in this pie, and for a time kept up quite a show of business by shipping corpses from below to be buried in his particular cemetery. It is too much to say that either party wished any one's death for the mere satisfaction of seeing

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a funeral procession headed toward their cemetery—it is only that they acted as though such were the fact. The factions were finally shamed out of this strife by seeing so many people shipping their friends back east for burial. It would have been a good thing, could they, in some way, have been shamed out of many other equally absurd quarrels.

THE NEW CHURCH.

In the primitive times, of Fergus Falls, when the spiritual welfare of the people was not looked after so sharply as now, there was but one church organization in the town. The place soon outgrew that. No one church could contain the two factions of the bustling village any more than one cage in a zoological garden could contain all the specimens. So, one cold day in midwinter, there came strolling over the prairie a lone missionary in search of a field wherein to plant a new church. He refreshed himself with such fare as was set before his class in those days, stayed over night and preached a sermon the next morning, which happened to be Sunday. This meeting was held in a hall on Union avenue, directly east and across the street from the old Sundahl opera house. After the sermon this missionary announced that he would preach at the same place in the evening, at which time a vote would be taken to decide whether a new church should be established—invited, I think he called it.

There he made a mistake. He never should have announced that intention. The vigilant citizens of Fergus got no rest that Sunday afternoon. The whole town and surrounding country were canvassed and the most persuasive arguments used by each faction to get out a full vote at the evening meeting. Each party claimed that the eternal salvation of the people depended upon the decision of the pending question, whether a new church should be invited. Evening came and the hall was one literal jam. Where all the people came from no one could guess; but there they were—the halt, lame and blind; old, young and middle aged; American, Dutch and Scandinavians. The by-ways and hedges had contributed their full quota.

Well, the sermon was finally over, the last hymn sung and the last prayer said. One could feel a sort of "getting-ready" movement on the part of the whole audience—a sort of bracing up for a catastrophe. The question was put up by the missionary: "All who are in favor of establishing a Presbyterian church, please arise." First a deacon arose, then others got up—then came a pause, after which a number more arose. The affirmative had all voted, and they made a fair showing. They were told to be seated, when, next, "all opposed stand up." Here the leader of the opposition arose, waved his wand (a cane he carried in his left hand), and it seemed as though all Fergus was flocking to final judgment, and everyone expected to be

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counted a sheep. A halo of victory adorned every brow; the opposition outnumbered their opponents ten to one.

It was a meager benediction the missionary pronounced that night. He seemed sad, but soon the old Adam within him arose. His militant spirit awoke, and, bringing his closed fist down upon the table with good old orthodox emphasis, he swore by all that a missionary is allowed to swear by, that the new church should come, vote or no vote, and, my friends, it came; and still the earth swung grandly on around the sun; not a star left its orbit; the Red river poured its potential might over the falls of Fergus, and not a water power was destroyed or diminished.

But the proposition served for a first-class Fergusonian row, and feelings were engendered that lasted for years—feelings which the peaceful and harmonious people here today cannot understand or appreciate.

THE CHURCH WAR.

Not only temporal affairs, but spiritual interests, were vigilantly watched in those benighted days. Church membership was not a necessary qualification for a soldier in those wars. Every man, metaphorically, shouldered his musket and took his stand within the ranks of his faction, and Zion's war was as long and deadly as any of the other numerous conflicts. I sometimes thought that the feelings they engendered were more bitter than any occasioned by other feuds. But that, I believe, has been the history of the world through. This strife took the place of the rat war of a somewhat earlier day, and every effort was put forth to recruit for the church of each faction. There were different grades in the ranks of these armies, and that of recruiting officer was the post of greatest honor and responsibility. Their duty was, first to capture and hold fast any newcomer, regardless of race or color, and, second, as often as possible, secure desertions from the ranks of the enemy.

The schemes and devices resorted to by these recruiting officers form one of the most amusing chapters in the history of early Fergus. If a stranger came to town he was waited upon at once and invited to sing in the choir. It was immaterial whether he could sing or not. His presence was what was wanted, regardless of the voice. Weekly choir meetings were held in a hall and always ended with a dance. The choir could dance, if they could not sing, and in this way a fellowship with the singers was made desirable. The efforts of these recruiting officers gave an unbalanced appearance to the congregations, and many were the sermons preached to empty pews and full choirs, but this top-heavy appearance finally disappeared with other Fergus follies.

I do not impute to any Christian men and women the responsibility for this state of affairs. A great zest for the cause may have led many of them

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to extraordinary efforts, but the trouble was mostly inspired by poor, benighted souls without a hope of heaven. But the town outgrew these absurdities, just as a man outgrows the follies of his boyhood. The only regret is that they were not sooner discarded. One missionary came expressly to act as a harmonizer, but he was laughed at and derisively dubbed "Old Harmony," while the juggernaut of discord rolled on, and he never made himself even felt.

A FONDNESS FOR BONDS.

"But," may be asked, "was there nothing in which the founders of Fergus could agree?" and I answer, "Yes."

There was one proposition, let it come in what form, and at what time it would, always had the effect of a flag of truce. On its appearance hostilities ceased and whitewinged peace spread her pinions over all. It was a panacea for all ills and a signal for unity of action. This was a good quality in our people, and to its development is due the after years of growth and prosperity of our city. Dispute it who may, it is the united power of a community, harmoniously applied for the mutual promotion of general interests, that brings success.

This great panacea was nothing more or less than a proposition to vote county or city bonds. Let it come from whom it would—for whatever purpose conceived—and the effect was magical. At once all Fergusonians became as patriotic as Artemus Ward, who was willing to send all his wife's relations to suppress the rebellion. I am sure that this effort was due to some ingredient of the medicine, for it was repeatedly applied, and invariably with a like effect.

OLD SETTLER TO THE FRONT.

No matter what the battle raging might be—political, religious, social or personal—but let Old Settler appear before the excited combatants with one of his long-winded petitions, and unfold that document with a smile, childlike and bland, and demonstrate how the more bonds the people voted the lighter would be the taxes, then there would be a love feast. It strengthened one's faith in humanity to see the Old Settler and his great graveyard opponent fall on each other's bosoms and weep tears of joy and repentance. At such times they would improvise waterworks for the occasion, without even a hint of confiscation of each other's property. The people in the county did get somewhat tired of voting on these Utopian schemes, but the people of Fergus, never.

On one occasion during the boom spasm, Mr. Wright was coming down the street holding in his hands a characteristic petition for an election to vote bonds, which petition, as usual, included an argument to show the issue of bonds would lessen taxation, when he met a man who was always opposed

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to these bonds. Mr. Wright stopped, extended his petition, and said, "Read that." After reading it, he handed it back to Mr. Wright, when the latter asked, "What do you say to that?" "Well," said the other, "I say to that, *Hic jacet* George B. Wright." Mr. Wright turned his head on one side, thought a minute, and answered, "No, he is not dead yet." "True," was the reply, "but he lies here just the same."

Mr. Wright's frequent repetition of the turn showed that he saw the point and enjoyed the joke. Mr. Wright was a man of original personality. He had remarkable diversity of mind, coupled with an indomitable energy and capacity for work. He was a civil engineer, an architect, a geologist, a poet, an artist, and a writer of romances of no mean quality. He was a wit, and kind hearted withal, a generous man who loved his friends and bore no malice toward his enemies. In his death Fergus lost her best friend.

REPUDIATION.

Aside from voting bonds, there was only one other thing in which the people showed a similar unanimity, and that was in voting to repudiate them. On one of the numerous occasions when Old Settler called on the county to vote bonds, the people of the state were to vote on a proposition to pay the old state bonds, which had been long repudiated—an admitted dishonor and standing menace to the credit of the state. In the young town there were thirteen votes against issuing county bonds, and but seven votes in favor of paying the state bonds. This was another condition of affairs which the people of today will hardly appreciate. The old bonds were at last paid, the credit of our fair state redeemed, and in a few years afterwards everyone wondered how it could have happened that the banner state of the Northwest could have repudiated her pledge of honor.

It is good discipline to stop, once in a while, and look at the absurd way that we learn to avoid it ourselves. The state of affairs, in those times, made it natural for the members of each party to believe the opposition a pack of scoundrels and the criticisms applied by the respective parties were not flattering in any eminent degree. People were supplied with a great many imaginary qualities, and not very desirable ones, at that. Both parties were mistaken. The honest intentions of one faction were about equal to those of the other, and a blind prejudice, common to both, prevented either from seeing the truth. There is not such a great difference in people, after all and when their reason instead of their passion governs them, there is not much difficulty in getting along together.

The citizens frequently went upon the theory that "what is everybody's business is nobody's business," and when a move was made by one, the balance would stand on their dignity and find fault with him who did act.

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CHARTER AMENDMENTS.

This was well illustrated on one occasion when the village charter had been amended, taking from the council the right to lay out streets. No one in Fergus knew that such an act was being procured. At first all people were indignant and public sentiment generally pointed to Old Settler as the master mind that conceived the outrage. They all called it "an outrage."

Soon it was discovered that such unanimity would never do. It was contrary to all precedent in Fergus. The factions divided and, while neither thought the legislation right, still each thought the other party responsible. This amendment took place at the last annual session of the Legislature; so there were two years of constant condemnation of the wretch who took from the august council the power to lay out streets, and an ardent longing the next session when the statute books could be purged of the "outrage." Just prior to the meeting of the next Legislature, a public meeting of citizens was called to consider and discuss proposed amendments to the village charter. One who had heard the "outrage" talked over for two long years would have expected to see that meeting a rousing one. The result was otherwise. Not a soul appeared. The interest in the "outrage" had oozed out, and public attention was centered on some other theme, which, in all probability, was nobody's business.

Parties in those days were fond of sitting around stores and law offices, telling how a town should be managed, what acts should be procured and what policy adopted, but if there was ever any concurrent movement towards any given end, it has escaped my recollection.

THE SCHOOL RECORD.

I have not talked much about the good qualities of our pioneers, because it is unnecessary; they had their full share, but goodness is very similar the world around, and while ever commendable, is liable to be tame. Besides if I only talked of the good qualities, it would be impossible to give a local color to the bit of history. But when we come to our school system, we approach that which excites a pride in the breast of every inhabitant of the city. It is not only distinguished at home, but distinguishes us throughout the state, and the excellence of our system is known and acknowledged all over Minnesota. This splendid achievement sprang from rather humble and unimportant beginnings. School district No. 21, which embraced Fergus Falls, was organized in 1871, and the first school opened in one end of a horse stable, on the river bank, near the Wright estate water-power. One Mrs. Fuller was teacher. Scholars were few, but mischievous; heat was oppressive and flies abundant. These conditions, coupled with stable fumes, rendered life all but unbearable to the teacher, till at last she sought relief by

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eloping with a stage driver, and her husband and her scholars were thrown back on the cold comforts of home. To prevent the recurrence of such a scandal, the school board rented the little brick house near the corner of Lincoln and Union avenues, and hired a male teacher for the winter term.

The pedagogue so employed was one W. Yeulen Smith, affectionately called by his pupils, "Billy Y"—and to the prohibition precepts by him drilled into the minds of young Fergusonians, may be traced the temperance principles of our younger pioneers. The summer school opened in the second story of a frame building on Lincoln avenue, where the Allen block now stands, with a Miss Sherwin as teacher. The same year, 1872, a frame two-story house was built on the site now occupied by the high school building, and the winter term opened with J. P. Williams as principal and Miss Sherwin as assistant. If the position of teacher may be called an "office," that was the beginning of Mr. Williams's long and worthy official career.

BRIBERY AND CORRUPTION.

In a somewhat later day, and when a boom was on in Fergus, a proposition was pending for the location of a Presbyterian college at this place. A meeting of the business men was called at the mayor's office, where the subject was discussed, pro and con. One prominent man—a natural-born town builder—advocated in strong terms an active attempt to procure the college. He said: "Gentlemen, I came from a town of schools, and I want to tell you that your town will never amount to nothing without them. I am in favor of getting the men who have the location of the college to come here, treat them well and make it pleasant for them. Them little attentions go a great ways." Mr. Compton, a recognized authority on all Presbyterian questions, replied that he did not think that the location of the school would be left to a number of men in that way, but that it would be decided by the general synod. "All right," said Mr. ————, "send for General Synod, bring him right here, pay his expenses, show him the town, and if necessary, give him a hundred dollars. It's money well spent." It is safe to say that General Synod was not "seen," as the college never came.

POLITICAL SCHEMES.

Many of the wrangles in the early days of Fergus Falls were over subjects which made them ridiculous *per se*, while others assumed a shape and aspect that had a direct and material influence on the growth of the place. The natural location of the town necessitated a great deal of grading of streets and public grounds. The party in power was always the party of progress, while the outs were always the obstruction party, and this without regard to consistency or previous attitudes. So it happened that needed public improvements went on about the same, no matter who was in. False

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alarms constantly kept the public pulse at a fever heat. First, a gunpowder plot was discovered to blow the whole business part of town over the river, and on to Bismarck avenue. That was no sooner thwarted than a counter plot was unearthed to draw the village all up to the east water-power, called Guttenberg. And so time kept on, and Fergus continued to reach out until she not only embraced both sides of the river, but Guttenberg and beyond.

In the early history of the state, there was a versatile demagogue called Donnelly, who had traded so long on his political character and honor that he was at one time reduced to great financial and moral straits, so much so that he could promise his supporters nothing better than pups. But let me say that the local politicians of early Fergus were more prolific in promises than the ingenuous Donnelly. Every aspirant for local favors in those days was—in his mind—a modern Croesus. To have fulfilled all the promises made before our charter elections would have taken the wealth of a Peruvian Inca.

Anything from a bridge across the Red river, or location of a bank, to a half interest in Guttenberg was as freely pledged as the actual drink was freely given—and freely taken. If the old First National Bank had been located on all the sites promised in those ante-election days, there would have been a flourishing financial institution on every corner of every block on Lincoln and Bismarck avenues, with several branches on back alleys.

THE WATERWORKS SCHEME.

We had characters—interesting and original—in those early days. One in particular called himself a natural "town-builder." He was fond of declaring that we had too many ba-a-ad men to ever amount to anything. Some were unkind enough to say that "suspicion always haunts the guilty minds," but I need resort to no such accusation. He could scent a vicious scheme farther than any other man in America. He discovered a giant African in the woodpile the time when George B. Wright had a bill introduced in the Legislature, granting to him and his associates the exclusive privilege of constructing waterworks in the village, and supplying its inhabitants with good, wholesome water. The bill was very complete, guarding sufficiently the interests of the grantees, and limiting the maximum rates they should be permitted to charge for the service; which rates, I presume, were sufficiently high to prevent loss to the water company. The bill also granted to the company the right to condemn land of private individuals when necessary to lay mains. The founder of Guttenberg was alarmed. He proclaimed the bill a b-a-d measure of a b-a-d man. He said it would ruin the town and confiscate every man's property. He was opposed to confiscation. A meeting of his faction was called at which strong resolutions were adopted, condemnatory of the bill and protesting against its passage. Money was sub-

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scribed and an attorney employed to go to St. Paul and present the resolutions to the legislative committee in charge of the bill. The measure was defeated and Guttenberg saved from confiscation.

Not long after this, Judge Newcomb became a joint owner with Mr. Austin in the Guttenberg property. At the next session of the Legislature I happened one day to be in the House, when a bill was introduced, granting to Newcomb and Austin the exclusive privileges of putting in waterworks in Fergus Falls, and supplying the inhabitants thereof with good, wholesome water. It was a great surprise, and yet, sounded familiar. Nothing had been said at home about it. Mr. Wright, when he attempted to secure his franchise, sent a copy of the bill up for the approval of the citizens, but nothing of the kind had been done by the Guttenberg proprietors. I procured the bill and found it was an exact copy—excepting the names—of the bill so strongly denounced and condemned a year or two before; and I said to myself, "Verily, it maketh a great difference whose property is to be confiscated." The bill was buried without any obsequies whatever.

MAJOR BEACH'S TELEGRAPH.

It would be difficult for people now to imagine the city without the telegraph, telephone and all modern electrical appliances, but there was a time when the town had neither. The advent of the first telegraph, away back in 1872, was an advent indeed. It was induced to come to us, through a wild country and over one hundred miles in advance of any railroad, through the great influence a certain Major Beach was supposed to have had with the telegraph company and other great corporations. In return for this favor, the people were to turn in and elect the Major to the state Senate. With the weakness peculiar to all politicians, the Major made a multitude of promises. Before the line reached here—while the scheme was in embyro, as one might say—the two factions divided on the location of the telegraph office. Each claimed that if placed within the lines of the enemy, no man's business would be safe; that all commercial transactions over the wire would be made public, and in this way, the financial transactions of the party using the same, end in disaster.

The calamity of the Chicago fire was trifling compared to the dire results that awaited the commercial interests of the coming city, if this telegraph office were not judiciously located. Party after party and delegation after delegation waited upon the Major—the imminences of the danger being graphically laid before him, and all needed promises exacted and freely given. The Major was a man of resources, and so long as the hunger of his political supporters could be appeased with promises, he rained them down like manna. But difficulties were in store for him. It happened one day that two delegations, one from each faction, both met the Major at the same time, and

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both claimed that he had made promises which took no argument to prove contradictory. Things were getting warm. The Major demanded silence.

Then that noble man arose in his full majesty. Never were his sterling qualities brought out in bolder relief. He declared that neither faction should have the office, but that he would establish it at the place of business of a recognized neutral; and further, if he heard one word more on the subject, the office should not come at all. The delegations returned, and it was not long before the pious Major was around with different ones, shaking dice for the drinks, and abusing the other fellows; and quietly winking assurance that the office should be all right yet, only he did not want any fuss kicked up about it till after the nomination. Well, the office finally came, and it turned out that the Major had no more to do with its location that the humblest of his admirers.

The Major was great in keeping in touch with the financial and corporate interests of the state, and hobnobbing with those who had the pass-giving power. He possessed all of the characteristics of the modern lobbyist. He could appear wise, whether he knew anything or not. He was wisdom personified—to look at. During the session of the Legislature of 1874, he and his Siamese twin (Jake Austin) "invested" and "infected," as George B. Wright put it, the capitol of the state; their two noble forms were seen everywhere and the Major was always booming his mate. The Major was somewhat susceptible to flattery.

One day a friend asked him how it happened that a man of his ability and discernment could always be extolling his companion, knowing him as he did. "Well," said Beach, "I make them think that Austin runs the upper country, and I run Austin. Don't you see the point?"

Kind man. He has long since passed away; *requiescat in pace.*

THE RAT SKIN WAR.

I suppose none of my readers ever saw a real muskrat skin. Well, they were a staple in early Fergus. Every man in trade bought them, and for a time all other rivalries merged in the absorbing topic of rat trade. At first there seemed to be no system about it; each merchant bought for himself, and each had his particular followers, who were interested in seeing him get the most rats. But this did not last long. Force so divided was demoralizing, and no first-class rat war could be maintained. So, by common consent, the great current of rat trade sought but two channels. Then there was music. Nearly every man and boy in town took sides and interested himself with one or the other buyers. An honest yeoman would drive into town with his little bundle of skins securely tied in a sack at the bottom of his sleigh. He could not proceed far before he would be surrounded by a crowd, not one of whom had any interest in the rats, or a cent to buy one with, who

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would set upon the poor granger like a pack of Saratoga hackmen, and when the bewildered mortal came to his senses, he would not have a rat left. Not that he really lost them. No, when he shook himself out and got his bearings again, he would find them at one of the buyers and all nicely counted, graded, priced and cash ready. The rat buyers made money, I suppose, but I was always puzzled to know what the other fellows made of it.

"Old Settler," George B. Wright, I believe, took no part in this rat war, as that time (1873) he was devoting his attention to the Legislature and a new village charter, embracing an original and novel system of voting, by means of which a man could be counted in whether he was elected or not. Time is too short to tell you about the scheme of voting. It was one of Old Settler's best. The Australian puzzle pales before it. It involves long arithmetical, algebraical and geometrical calculations, besides an acquaintance with the psychological convolutions of the brain capable of conceiving it. The people repudiated the whole thing—refused to attempt its use at the charter election held soon after its passage, and the law was repealed at the next session of the Legislature.

THE DAM-SITE AT GUTTENBERG.

And herein comes some more Austin history.

The Austin dam crosses the Red river was located about a mile and a half up the stream from the center of Fergus Falls, at a point called Guttenberg by Mr. Austin. It was on section 36, which was school land. In 1873 the state authorities decided to sell that section at public sale, as the law authorized. Such land, before sale, had to be divided into smaller pieces or lots, and one Robert Miller, commonly called "Bob," an Englishman and henchman of Austin, was appointed by the state auditor to survey and subdivide this section of land for the purpose of public sale.

Owing to the rapids in the river through this section, there could be selected one good mill-site. Austin had an eye for such a water-power, and the terms of intimacy between him and Bob became more and more cohesive. Politically, they were strong party antagonists, but in the matter of dam-sites they were a unit. Bob made a beautiful plat of section 36. To the artistic eye of Mr. Austin it was the most perfect and good-to-look-at map ever produced by a civil engineer, living or dead. Miller designated on this plat as "mill-site" a tract of land, containing about five acres, lying on both sides of the river and at the lower end of the rapids. A dam at that point would have to be nearly a mile long to reach banks sufficient for that purpose.

North of this "mill-site," and immediately adjoining, he marked out another five-acre lot, which also embraced both sides of the river. This parcel was designated by a number, as were all the other lots except the "mill-site" one. The river was narrow, with high banks on each side, when it ran

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through this last named five-acre tract. This lot constituted the only available water-power site on section 36. When completed, the beautiful plat was placed on file in the state auditor's office at St. Paul, and the sale of the land advertised. At such sale the land had to be put up by lots as platted, and the law fixed the minimum price for which any tract could be sold at five dollars per acre.

The public sale took place in Fergus Falls one cold, rainy day, late in the fall. The power privileges on the Red river at this point were widely advertised, and to secure such an one, a Mr. Griswold, of Minneapolis, came to the sale to bid on the "mill-site." That most desirable property was put up first. Mr. Griswold made a bid, and Austin raised it. He, too, wanted a water-power, but not that one. Griswold raised his bid, when Austin went him "some better." This continued till the amount ran up above six hundred dollars, and the "mill-site" was "knocked down" to Griswold. Then the tract immediately above was placed on sale, and as there was but one bid, Austin got it at the minimum price. Notwithstanding the cold, stormy weather, as soon as the land was struck off to Austin, he, having teams and men ready, started for his mill-site and commenced work on his dam, which he placed just above the upper line of Griswold's "mill-site."

When the real situation dawned on a "waiting world," there was "music in the air." Miller, like the typical Englishman, was stolid and said nothing. Jake pursued his dam-building operations, nor did he talk to any considerable extent. That was left to others. But Austin did not come out quite so well refused to make payment—or suffer cancellation of his own purchase. Austin as he had figured. When the state auditor learned the facts, he demanded that Jake take the Griswold "mill-site" at the amount bid—the latter having took the Griswold tract. Austin's popularity was never phenomenal, and this episode did not enhance it to any great extent.

J. W. Mason was a member of the Legislature from Otter Tail county in the session of 1874. At that time about all of Austin's taxable property was in his dam, at the eastern edge of the city. Austin supported Mason for the Legislature, and along during the session went to St. Paul for an interview with the "local member." That interview took place in the Merchants Hotel, where Mason boarded. It ran about as follows:

Austin—"John, I've got a scheme. It's great. It will please you and all the people in Fergus Falls. It is this: I want you to introduce a bill setting Guttenberg out of the village, thus making it a part of the township of Fergus Falls. The people will be glad to get rid of me; besides you can always count on the delegation from that town in future conventions. How does it strike you?"

Mason—"Well, Mr. Austin, it strikes me like this: You know the sit-

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uation up there as well as I do. The people would say, and justly, that it is a scheme to place your property beyond the taxing power of the village. We are both blamed for the part we took in the school house bond issue, and were I to do as you ask, they would all say I had been bought. I can't afford that."

Austin—"No such thing. They will all be glad to get rid of me and thank you for helping do it."

Mason—"Very well, if they feel that way, I'll tell you what to do. You go back home and get them to sign a petition, asking me to introduce such a bill and I will do it, provided such petition is signed by the leading business men and taxpayers, otherwise I must decline to do as you wish."

Austin—"All right. I'll do it. They'll all be glad to sign it. I'll be back here inside of two weeks."

In about that time Austin returned to St. Paul and registered at the Metropolitan Hotel. He sent a line by messenger boy to Mason, asking him to call that evening. Mason went to the hotel and, on meeting Mr. Austin, said: "Well, did you get your petition signed as we talked?"

"No," said Austin, "I wouldn't ask one of the d——d ———— to sign anything. I've got a better scheme. It's this: I'll have the bill introduced in the Senate by Senator Nelson. Being a local bill, it will pass there, and when it comes up in the House, you can be absent, or let it slip through and say nothing."

Mason said: "No, Mr. Austin, that won't do. I would rather take the bull by the horns, introduce and pass the bill in the House than sit by and see it done that way. Your plan won't work, and the bill will not be passed."

Austin returned home next day, and when he got there his characterizations of the local member from Fergus Falls were anything but flattering. Guttenberg is still a part of the city.

MISTAKEN IDENTITY.

G. O. Dahl, present county commissioner of Otter Tail county, was at an early day in business here, and goods were shipped to him, marked with his initials only. A traveling salesman was passing a wholesale establishment in Minneapolis one day, when he saw a box marked 'G. O. D., Fergus Falls, Minn." He looked at it a moment, then turned to a friend and said: "He ain't there. I just came from that place. I doubt if He ever was there."

WHAT CAN BE DONE WITH A DIME.

In the early days, when grasshoppers were ravishing the country and business was dull, there were two saloons in Fergus Falls, both on Lincoln avenue and about two blocks apart. One was kept by a Norwegian called John; the other by a Frenchman, Captain Dampier.

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Trade was dead. Gloom settled down with the grasshoppers. Farmers were futilely fighting the pests and watching their crops disappear as the locusts, in myriads, marched over their fields. Merchants sat waiting for customers that did not come, and the only place of activity in town was at Nichols & Dearborn's drug store, where the everlasting game of checkers went on day and night. The general inactivity seemed to get hold of the dogs, even, and they shared with their owners the prevailing ennui in the "Coming City." The very hens, gorged with grasshoppers, refused to lay. Nothing is known equal to a locust raid for spreading gloom.

One morning, during this depressing period, John opened his saloon, stepped out in front and looked on this scene of inactivity. Up and down the street no moving thing was in sight. He returned inside and sat down to wait for the customer that did not come. The stillness and utter quietude got on his nerves. For lack of something better to do, he got up and went to the money drawer, thinking to count the cash receipts of yesterday. There he found only a lone ten-cent piece. The dime looked as lonesome as John felt. He put it back and waited.

After a time he approached the till, took out the solitary dime and started down the street for Cap's saloon. That was as quiet and deserted as his own place of business. He bought a drink, paid for it with his only piece, and went back to his own saloon.

In Cap's till there was no cash whatever before he made deposit of John's dime. This transaction encouraged Cap. Business was "picking up." In a short time it occurred to Cap that he ought to reciprocate and patronize his competitor; so he took the dime and started for John's place. There he bought a drink, paying for it with this nimble piece. In a little while, John, imbued with the same spirit of reciprocity, took the dime and started on a trek for Cap's place, when he indulged in a libation equal in value to the whole volume of circulating medium in town. Soon Cap "reciprocated" some more, and so these business transactions continued throughout the day.

When night came, both felt happy, hilarious and prosperous. As they meandered up street, each supported by the loving arms of the other, Cap said: "John, that's what I call financeering. We both got full and it cost us only ten cents. Can you beat it?"

THE STAGE ROBBER.

I would not want to go on record as saying that there was more killing done in the county in those days than afterwards, but there was certainly more highway robbery. A stage then ran from Alexandria to Otter Tail City, carrying passengers, mail and the American express. One afternoon

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in the spring of 1871 this coach, laden with a solitary passenger inside and the driver with his express box on the outside, was "held up," as the phrase went in those days, about six miles west of Otter Tail City. The driver, in obedience to a pressing invitation presented at the muzzle of a double-barrelled shot-gun, threw out his express box. The passenger, frightened almost to death, jumped out on the opposite side and took to the woods. The driver, relieved of his box and not stopping for his passenger, retained just sense enough to put whip to the horses and run them all the way to Otter Tail City. There, with trembling voice and chattering teeth, he told the story of his robbery. A posse started after the thief, taking the driver along to identify him when caught.

They rode out to the scene of action and scattered, one party soon coming upon the passenger, half-dead with fright. The conclusion was jumped at immediately that he was the robber. A rope was put around his neck and he was given five minutes to make his prayers. About this time it occurred to one of the would-be executioners that it might be well to have the man identified by the driver before he was hanged. Search was made and when the other party, including the driver, was found the latter was not certain, but inclined to the opinion that they had caught his late passenger. Consequently the proposed execution was temporarily postponed to await further developments.

After a few days the real highwayman was captured. By this time excitement had abated sufficiently to permit the law to take its course. The officials of the stage company were naturally anxious to secure the conviction of the prisoner. So, along in the fall, some time before court set, they sent an agent to Otter Tail City, then the county seat, to interview the county attorney in relation to the coming trial. E. E. Corliss was then the incumbent of that office, the first position which Mr. Corliss held in the county, although by no means the last.

At Otter Tail City the agent of the stage company was informed that the county attorney was out at his farm near Clitherall. So, he turned about and started for the shades of that peaceful retreat on the shores of the lake, long afterwards famous as the location of "Camp Corliss." The county attorney in those days was industrious and on this occasion was busy attending the mason who was plastering his house. The express agent drove up to the place and inquired of a tall, red-headed man in shirt sleeves and bare feet, if he knew where he, the agent, could find Mr. Corliss. "Yes," said this individual, "I'm Corliss." "What," cried the agent, "are you county attorney of this county." "Well, I should smile," said Corliss. "What do you want?" "Well, I did want to convict that robber," said the agent, "but I think we might as well let him go." Mr. Corliss closed one eye, inves-

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tigated the agent with the other and said: "My friend, you just have your witnesses there, and I'll do the rest." When the case was tried and the prisoner convicted, you may be sure that the agent changed his opinion of the prosecuting attorney of Otter Tail county.

Mr. Corliss held the office of county attorney for a good many terms. I think it stands to his record that he secured more convictions after actual trial than any other man who served for a like length of time in the county. He was a most vigorous prosecutor, always partisan and imbued with the spirit of justice in the cause he represented, and declared that he never prosecuted an innocent man or defended a guilty one. Those who know him best believe that he states what he thinks to be true.

THE FERGUS FALLS VIGILANTES.

In addition to "gentlemen of the road," Otter Tail county was favored (?) with another species of chivalarous gentry, designated in common speech as "horse thieves." They were supposed to carry on the traffic systematically, with all lines of travel converging at Pomme de Terre in Grant county, and from thence, by a definite route south into Stevens county, to the home of their reputed "fence." Jaggar. Whether Jaggar was actually engaged in such industry is not known by any legal evidence, but that he bore the reputation is beyond question. There was enough "smoke" to justify the presumption of some "fire."

While Fergus Falls had never been honored by any attentions from this enterprising gang of "rustlers," still the citizens proposed to "lock the barn before the horse was stolen." To a man they were in favor of "preparedness." In March, 1872, to be ready for any possible attack, a vigilance committee was formed, called the Anti-Horse Thief Association. There was not a horse in town valuable enough to tempt the most "ornery" horse thief, but that did not excuse want of necessary precaution.

The following is the constitution of the Anti-Horse Thief Association:

Whereas, The experience of the last year has demonstrated the necessity of some further protection from the depredations of an infamous band of horse thieves who infest the county, preying upon the property of the community, other than that afforded by the civil laws of the state, therefore,

Resolved, That the formation of a Vigilance Committee for our protection is imperatively demanded.

Resolved, That the name of this society shall be the Fergus Falls Anti-Horse Thief Association, and shall have for its object the recovery and protection of horses stolen from the members, and the prompt punishment of the thieves.

Extract from the by-laws:

10th. It shall be the sworn duty of any and all members of this society capturing a horse thief having in his possession the property of any member of the association, to promptly execute the said horse thief, by hanging, or in the absence of facilities for hanging, by shooting, or in any other manner, but in any and all events to take such

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effective measures as shall preclude the possibility of the return of said horse thief to commit any further depredations in the county.

There is a bit of "local color" to this history not disclosed by the foregoing "Constitution and By-Law." Nearly every male in town joined the association except one man, a druggist. He devoted much time to ridiculing the organization and at this distance, his strictures might seem justifiably humorous, but for a subsequent event. His humor took rather a spectacular form. He set up a bulletin board outside his store in front, on which, in burlesque, he advertised and ridiculed the association. He would change the advertisement on the board each day, make comments on the different members, their courage, or want of courage, and the manner in which the horse thieves were disposed of. To supply "the absence of facilities for hanging," he hung a rope on the bulletin board for the use of the association, in case a horse thief was caught, believing, as he advertised, that "shooting was too good" for the despicable characters who would steal a Fergus Falls horse. This went on from day to day. People laughed, but began to take note that the disreputable characters who drifted into town always went direct to this drug store, and made it their headquarters as long as they remained.

The next winter this druggist was visited by a brother-in-law, who remained several weeks. The two men had never before met. Their wives were orphan children, and separated in early girlhood, and had never seen each other since they were little children. This man, having heard of the whereabouts of his brother-in-law, the druggist, came on to make him the visit mentioned. After remaining a month or six weeks, he returned to his home in the southern part of the state.

Not long after his return home, he wrote a letter to Jacob Austin, saying that he went to Fergus Falls to visit his brother-in-law, and felt it his duty to state that he discovered him to be a bad man and an undesirable citizen; that he was actually connected with a gang of horse thieves operating in Otter Tail and surrounding counties, and was the actual harborer of vicious characters who frequented Fergus Falls. The druggist soon left the country and was heard of no more. Possibly this letter did him an injustice, but the writer seemed a candid and conscientious man, and his story was generally believed.

A ROMANCE AND A TRAGEDY.

On the south shore of Otter Tail lake, where the beautiful little stream comes out of the woods to pour itself into the lake, was the scene of a romance and a tragedy back in the early seventies. This lake, about ten miles in length and nearly six in width, is one of the beauty spots of Minnesota. Nearly surrounded by heavy timber and fine, sandy beaches, it was,

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in an earlier day, the home and haunt of the Indians. In former times many were the battles fought between the Sioux and Chippewas for possession of these favored hunting-grounds. The Chippewas finally conquered and held dominion under their old chief Po-ka-no-ga, the friend of the white man, till removed by the government to the White Earth reservation. At the west end, where the Red river flows out of the lake, there are a number of Indian mounds extending from the top of the hill, on the south side of the river, back over the prairie for a considerable distance. These mounds are as large and distinctly marked as those in Mound park in St. Paul.

At an early day, probably in the late sixties, James G. Craigie, a Scotchman, located his claim, built a house and small flour-mill close to the lake on the small stream above mentioned. His family consisted of himself, wife and daughter, Annie, about eighteen years of age. Annie was a "love" child, conceived in Scotland and born in Canada. Shortly after her birth, James G. Craigie came to Canada, and within two or three years married her mother. There the family lived till shortly before the story opens, when they came to Minnesota and settled on the shore of Otter Tail lake. Craigie had the Scotch thrift and in those times was counted rich.

The daughter Annie was a comely girl, well educated, as schooling went then, and was the pride of her father and mother. The parents were getting on in years, and Annie was considered a very desirable match for the Adonis fortunate enough to win her. Near the Craigie home lived a young man by the name of Archie McArthur. He was of good address, industrious, of Scotch descent on his father's side, with a strain of Indian blood derived from his mother. There was very little in his appearance to indicate the Indian taint. He had light hair and blue eyes, and a stranger would never suspect from his looks that the blood of the noble red man was in his veins. He paid his addresses to Annie, who reciprocated his affection, and, against the violent opposition of her parents, they were married. From that time on, Craigie disowned Annie, forbade her his house, and it is not known that she ever "darkened the door" of her parents' home again.

At this time there was living in Otter Tail county a man by the name of John Cromb. He was a Scotchman, and came to this country from the same neighborhood where Craigie used to live. He was married, well educated and afterwards filled important state and national offices. Soon after Annie's marriage a woman from the Craigie home in Scotland came to the Craigie home here. Through some item in the local newspaper which fell into her hands in the old country, she learned the whereabouts of John Cromb, her husband. According to her story, vouched for by the Craigies,

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she was the wife of Cromb, whom he had deserted and come to America with another woman as his wife. After her arrival here she employed counsel to commence proceedings against her husband, but before any legal action was taken all proceedings were terminated by the tragic death of Mr. and Mrs. Craigie and Mrs. Cromb.

Craigie owned a light sailing yacht, and was in the habit of frequently taking his family for a sail on the beautiful lake. One afternoon, when a fine breeze was blowing, he took Mrs. Craigie and Mrs. Cromb out for a sail. They had not been long on the lake before, through some unknown accident or mismanagement, the boat capsized and all were drowned.

James G. Craigie had several brothers and sisters, part of whom lived in Scotland, part in Canada, and one brother in Minnesota at the time of his death. The brother, Alexander M., living in Scotland, came to Minnesota and applied to the probate court of Otter Tail county for letters of administration of the estate of his deceased brother. This application was resisted by Annie McArthur, who claimed to be the daughter and sole heir of James G. Craigie, deceased, but at the hearing in the probate court Alexander was appointed administrator, and letters were ordered to be issued to him. From such order of appointment, Annie McArthur appealed to the district court of the county. Alexander Craigie, with his brothers and sisters, claimed that Annie McArthur was not the daughter of James G. Craigie, but was the child of one Falkner, living in Scotland. If this claim were established, then the property of the deceased brother descended to his brothers and sisters. On the other hand, if she were the daughter of James G. Craigie, then she was his sole heir and entitled to the whole of the estate.

As may be easily imagined, everybody was interested in the trial, and public sympathy was mostly on the side of Annie McArthur. Eminent counsel from St. Paul represented each side of the controversy and the question submitted to the jury: "Is Annie McArthur, the appellant, the legitimate child of James G. Craigie, deceased." was discussed at every cross-road and place where frontiersmen gathered for gossip.

The brothers and sisters of James were at the trial, some coming from Scotland and others from Canada, and all testified to facts from which it might be inferred that Annie was the daughter of Falkner. The nature of Mrs. McArthur's evidence may be gathered from the court's instructions to the jury. The jury was instructed that if they believed from the testimony that the plaintiff, Annie, was begotten in Scotland; that James G. Craigie and the mother lived at the same time in the same neighborhood; that the mother soon afterwards came over to Canada, and gave birth to the child; that shortly afterwards James G. Craigie came also to Canada and settled

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in the same neighborhood with the mother, and within two or three years after the child's birth married the mother; brought Annie up as his child, calling her by his own name, introduced her as his daughter; wrote her name in books given her by him, as "Annie Craigie"; wrote her letters signing himself "Your affectionate father," and treating her in all respects as his legitimate child; that such facts raised a strong presumption that she is his child, and that such presumption can only be overcome by strong and convincing proof.

The jury promptly answered the question "Yes," thus establishing Annie McArthur's contention that she was the daughter of James G. Craigie, and sole heir to his estate. The finding of the jury was affirmed by the supreme court of Minnesota, and Annie and Arthur lived "happily together ever after."

LUEDKE VS. LUEDKE.

The case of Clara M. Luedke vs. August E. Luedke for divorce presented many features which made it celebrated at the time and worthy of record in the history of Otter Tail county.

The defendant for many years was a wealthy merchant of Perham. The plaintiff was an adventuress. After the death of his first wife, Luedke moved from Perham to Fergus Falls, bought the Picket block and opened therein a large, general store.

About the middle of May, 1899, Clara M. Holderbaum came to Luedke's store, being introduced to him by a traveling man whom Luedke had previously met. Her excuse for calling, she said, was her wish to rent the millinery department of Luedke's store. No agreement for that purpose was made, and Miss Holderbaum returned to Minneapolis, which, she said, was her home. In about two weeks later she wrote Luedke, renewing her application to rent. To this letter Luedke made no answer, and shortly she wrote again asking for a reply to her first letter. At the end of this epistle she added this postscript: "What do you say to opening a correspondence?"

From this time on the parties carried on a regular exchange of letters. I never had the pleasure of reading Luedke's letters, but Miss Holderbaum's were love epistles, indeed, burning with the most endearing terms of affection, and very solicitous for Luedke's spiritual welfare. Nearly all purported to have been written just before going to church, prayer meeting, Christian Endeavor gathering, or out on some mission of charity. Luedke called on her several times, when she always insisted that they attend some exercises of a religious nature. Luedke not being noticeably devout, always begged off, and proposed a show, instead, but she did not care for those

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things. Her early training had prejudiced her against such worldly entertainments.

Well, this correspondence, with occasional visits, continued along till about the latter part of September, and they were married on the 26th of that month. After marriage they came to Fergus Falls, occupying rooms in the Pickit block, over the store. The warmth of the courtship soon changed to heat of domestic broils. The first serious misunderstanding occurred within a couple of weeks. Mrs. Luedke demanded, as a proof of her husband's affection, that he deed and set over to her a certain portion of his property. She could not have touched a more tender or sensitive chord in Luedke's harmonious make-up.

The woman was not penniless, as she carried quite a store of wealth, concealed about her person. Of what this consisted, will appear later. From the time Luedke refused to deed any property to his wife, life together was not of that ideal harmony supposed to characterize the honeymoon period of marital bliss. Luedke, himself, was no angel, and if his wife were, she surely came from his satanic majesty's dominions. For several days prior to January 11, 1900, she had all her earthly belongings packed in trunks and the trunks locked. On that day she "moved out," and within a few hours thereafter a summons and complaint were served on Luedke demanding a divorce on the ground of cruel and inhuman treatment, with permanent alimony in the sum of fifty thousand dollars and an allowance for support, expenses of preparing for trial and attorney's fees in the sum of ten thousand dollars. She thought in figures like a Duluth millionaire. C. C. Houpt and Parsons & Brown were her attorneys in the suit.

Hon. L. L. Baxter was the judge before whom the case would be tried, and his son, Chauncey L. Baxter, was an attorney living in Fergus Falls and practicing before his father. The importance of these facts will appear a little later, and serve to point a moral and help adorn the tale.

Luedke was, of course, perturbed. The figures in the complaint were staggering. He, at once, came to my office to retain me in the case. I read the complaint and heard the story of introduction, courtship and subsequent married life. After going over these, he asked: "Well, what do you think?" I said: "We must retain Chauncey Baxter." To this he objected in strongest terms. Anyone but Chauncey he was willing to consider, but he had no use for him. I told him he probably thought so, but that it struck me entirely different; that if he wanted my services he must rely on my judgment and follow my advice. He finally consented, but with rather poor grace. As soon as that was settled, I stepped to the phone and called for C. L. Baxter at his office, and was told that he had just gone home. Getting him on the line there, I told him that I wanted to retain him for

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Luedke in a suit for divorce which Mrs. Luedke had just commenced. Knowing the defendant's financial ability, he was not slow to accept, and said he would come to my office at once. On his way there he met Mr. Houpt, of counsel for Mrs. Luedke. Houpt told Baxter that he wanted to retain him for Mrs. Luedke in her divorce case. Chauncey told him that he was too late—that he had just been retained by Luedke and was on his way for a consultation. This circumstance shows how much better a phone is than walking when one is in a hurry.

After defendant's answer was served, the plaintiff's attorneys gave notice of an application to the court for an order commanding defendant to pay temporary alimony as demanded in the complaint. Before the day fixed for such hearing, Chauncey had a filial interview with his father.

The motion for temporary alimony came on for hearing, and plaintiff's counsel made an able and pathetic appeal for liberal allowance in view of the great wealth of defendant. They claimed as reasonble, under the circumstances, one thousand dollars retainer for plaintiff's attorneys; five hundred dollars for preparing for trial, and twenty dollars per week to plaintiff for maintenance during the pendency of the action.

At the close of their argument, counsel for defendant arose to reply, when the court stopped him and said: "I don't care to hear any argument on this question. I have a rule of my own which I always follow on these applications for temporary alimony, and which I shall follow in this instance. It is hereby ordered that the defendant pay to the attorneys for plaintiff, as retainer in the suit, the sum of fifty dollars; that he pay to the plaintiff the sum of four dollars a week for maintenance during the pendency of the action, and the further sum of twenty-five dollars for expenses in preparing for trial." It was easy to see on whom the "wet blanket" fell, and Luedke commenced to feel better about retaining Chauncey.

I felt that we had a hard case to combat. The defendant was not popular. The plaintiff was a good-looking woman, and at that time nothing was known against her here, and an adroit campaign was started to create a prejudice in her favor. Public sentiment was strongly against the defendant. I became convinced that, if possible, some compromise should be effected, whereby the plaintiff be allowed to take her divorce, and a reasonable sum paid her, as it was evident money was what she was after. She was not unlike the Irishman who listened to the street free-silver orator who told his hearers how, when we had free coinage of silver, every man would have work. At this the Irishman interrupted with: "To hell wid y'r wor-r-k; it's money we wa-ant." After much consultation, Luedke finally consented to pay five thousand dollars if such an arrangement could be made.

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I tried to get him to make a little better offer, but he refused. Five thousand dollars was all the "blood money" he would pay.

Plaintiff's counsel, on being notified that defendant would like to effect some kind of settlement, came to my office to negotiate. Mr. Houpt and Mr. Parsons were the ones who called. After some talk, I concluded best to violate instructions, as I felt sure they would not accept the amount named by Luedke; so I offered, first, not to oppose the divorce, and, second, to pay Mrs. Luedke six thousand dollars. They stepped into a side room to consider the proposition. Returning shortly, they said my offer was rejected; that twenty-five thousand dollars was the least sum they would consider, and that if Luedke would not pay that amount, negotiations were ended.

Well, negotiations closed, all right, and I realized that the fight was on. Taking the conduct of the plaintiff as revealed by statements of the defendant, and her devout and saintly correspondence preceding the marriage, I became convinced that she was an adventuress and a very different person from what she held herself out to be, but the thing was, how to prove it. Her public conduct here during the fifteen weeks of married life gave no clew to her real character. Information must be sought in Minneapolis, where she formerly lived.

It was agreed to employ the Pinkerton detective agency at St. Paul. For that purpose, I went to see Mr. Vallens, superintendent of the agency there. I laid the whole case, insofar as I had information, before Vallens and succeeded in enlisting his interest and sympathy; but he told me that it was a rule of the Pinkerton agency not to undertake investigations in divorce cases. He said that this case was peculiar, and that if the facts were fully laid before the head office, they might consent to let him undertake it. He then told me that if I would wait over until the next day, he would telegraph a full report to the office in Chicago, and that if they would not let him undertake the work, then he would introduce me to a good, private detective who would. The next day, late in the afternoon, I was called to Vallens' office, when he told me he had permission to investigate the Luedke case.

This investigation went on for two weeks. It disclosed that Miss Holderbaum worked in a store as clerk during the daytime. She had a room, but never received visitors there, and was generally absent from her room evenings. She was never known to attend church or other religious functions. She was frequently in St. Paul at night. There she was traced to a house of illfame on several occasions with different men, but as soon as the proprietress learned what the detective was after, she refused to give any particulars, and said if subpoenaed in the case, she would deny ever having seen the plaintiff.

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At the end of two weeks Vallens wrote that there was no use of spending more time or money in tracing Miss Holderbaum's movements in the Twin Cities, as they could find nothing further than as stated.

The information so gained, while it showed that the plaintiff was a woman of bad character, would be of little use in the trial. About the time this search was abandoned, I incidentally heard that at Grand Forks, North Dakota, where Miss Holderbaum had worked as a dining-room girl in a hotel, she was called the "little widow." This was a small thing, but "Tall oaks from little acorns grow," and Luedke was not in a position where he could afford to overlook anything, however diminutive. Mrs. Luedke had told that her home was in Bucyrus, Ohio, where her folks lived, and had spoken of being in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, once upon a time.

I telegraphed Vallens to continue investigations at those two points, and in response to this instruction, he sent a man from Chicago to Bucyrus. The detective had not been there a day before he struck the "lead" and the "showing was rich." He there learned that at the time of Mrs. Luedke's marriage her name was Mrs. Clara M. Burris. Her former husband kept a large retail jewelry store at Bucyrus, and that shortly before the plaintiff came to Minneapolis he had obtained a divorce from her on the ground of adultery. Like "favorable" reports came from Pittsburgh.

With this information in hand, I determined to go to those two cities and personally follow up the leads. For this purpose it was necessary to have photographs of Mrs. Luedke, but she had taken all such with her on leaving defendant's "bed and board." Luedke said she had recently had some taken at a studio in Minneapolis. He went there and asked for some photographs of his wife, recently taken, and procured two of cabinet size, one a front, the other a side view. Armed with these and the detective's report, I started for Pittsburgh. It is unnecessary to go into particulars, but at Pittsburgh I was put in communication with a man—a widower—with whom the plaintiff had promised to go to Europe as his wife, and did go with him as far as New York, where she left him, taking with her a trunk of his former wife's clothing and some jewelry. He traced her back to Pittsburgh, recovered his stolen property, but did not prosecute her criminally.

When I saw this man he was married again in good faith and in accordance with the forms of law. He was a German and about to start on another trip to his native country, but, for a consideration, agreed to defer the journey and come to Minnesota as a witness for Luedke in the divorce suit. In addition to his own expenses, I had to agree to pay those of his

I further found a boarding-house keeper in Allegheny with whom Miss wife, whom he insisted should accompany him.

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Holderbaum lived with a man as her husband for several weeks, and to whom, to prove their respectability, they exhibited their marriage certificate, made, as it afterwards appeared, for the occasion. This woman could not come to Minnesota, and I arranged to have her deposition taken. I found McGonna, the big Irish policeman in Pittsburgh, who had arrested the pious plaintiff for drunkenness on the public streets, and who told me of her having jumped out of the "Black Maria" on the way to jail, and the chase she gave him before he recaptured her. With this information, properly codified, indexed and arranged, I started for Bucyrus, Ohio, to interview her former husband, Mr. Burris.

The next morning after reaching Bucyrus, I called at a large, fine retail jewelry store kept by this man, and inquired if Mr. Burris was in, and was told that it was to him I was talking. After some general conversation I handed him the photographs and asked if he knew the original. He said he did and asked: "What has she been doing now?"

I told him the story of her history in Minnesota. He called to a good-looking young woman in the farther end of the store and as she came forward introduced her as his wife. Handing her the photographs, he said: "That's the woman." Mrs. Burris said nothing, but showed in her face that she was interested, though she did not ask to keep the pictures.

Mr. Burris told me that the original of the photos was his one-time wife, and that he got a divorce from her on the ground of adultery. He said that the man who was witness to the fact was living in Bucyrus and kept a restaurant; that he would introduce me to this man, and to the clerk of the court in whose office the decree of divorce was filed. When I asked him to come to Minnesota as a witness, he stepped back and had a consultation with his wife. After that was over he told me that his wife did not want him to go, but that he would give me his deposition and aid me in any way he could.

He said that when Mrs. Luedke left him she stole three gold watches, of the value of one hundred dollars each, and took about one thousand dollars' worth of diamonds, but that he was so glad to be "shut" of her that he had never tried to prosecute her, criminally. These diamonds Mrs. Luedke had with her here and carried them in a chamois skin sack attached to a cord around her neck. He then took me to the clerk of the court, from whom I procured a certified copy of the decree of divorce. That stated the ground on which it was granted. From there he took me to the man who was the eye-witness in his suit for divorce. This man agreed to come to Minnesota as a witness in the case.

My work being finished in Bucyrus, I started for home with grateful feelings towards the Pinkerton detective agency. I reached home Friday

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night and the next day served an amended answer on plaintiff's attorneys, in which was set up in legal form the facts above related. The amended answer demanded a divorce for defendant on the grounds of fraud, deception and adultery, and cruel and inhuman treatment of defendant by the plaintiff.

On the next Saturday, just one week from the time the amended answer was served, the court granted Luedke his divorce, and revoked the former order for temporary alimony and no permanent alimony was allowed plaintiff. The plaintiff did not appear at the hearing, which made it unnecessary to procure the witnesses from Bucyrus and Pittsburgh. The plaintiff had to be satisfied with what she got out of two thousand five hundred dollars, privately agreed to be paid her through the hands of her attorneys.

Thus ended Mrs. Luedke's beautiful dream of thousands. At the request of her attorneys, nothing was said in the papers about the decree till Mrs. Luedke had time to take her departure for fresh fields the next Monday morning.

In about two months after she left I received a letter from a firm of lawyers in Wisconsin, asking me for such information as I could give them about a late resident of Fergus Falls—a Mrs. Luedke. For reply I sent them the documents I had gathered in the case of Luedke vs. Luedke, since when nothing has been heard here of her further adventures in matrimony.

THE LO-CUS (T)—(CALOPTENUS SPRETUS).

An entomological talk.

Talk of the "thief that comes in the night"; he is a philanthropist compared with the marauder that in an earlier day made his raid on the peace-loving and prosperous grangers of northern Minnesota. The thief comes singly, or, at most, in pairs, and his energies are directed to but few articles of plunder. He will relieve one of his jewels, loose cash, and, if undisturbed, fill up on the cold provender of the pantry. He has the good qualities of courage, and takes chances of apprehension and punishment. He may be provided against and thwarted by a possible state of preparedness, but not so with the Lo-cus that comes in myriads and, unabashed, settles down on a vast expanse of territory and ruthlessly commences depredations on all that supports life of man and beast.

His means of locomotion is a biplane. In the air he is a flyer; on the earth a hopper. His habitat and place of origin is said to be the Rocky mountains; his periodical raid is once in every seventeen years; if he made it every seventeen thousand, "he never would be missed."

If he comes in the night, he is a surprise in the morning. If he comes in the daytime, his invasion is announced by signs in the skies. The sun, shining through his biplanes, as his myriads upon myriads sail through the

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air, seeking a place to conquer, gives the appearance of a snow storm on the mountain as seen from below. His trillions settle on everything green, and overlap on barren wastes; and not long after he lights, everything is barren.

The Lo-cus is most democratic in his tastes. He eats everything green except peas. His *piece de resistance* is a mixture of radish and onion. Of these he leaves nothing but the holes in the ground where they grew. He chooses only the succulent parts of other vegetation. He makes his drive on a field of wheat, stations five or six on every stem, and the field is cut and destroyed in a few minutes. His rapacious maw is never filled. He fertilizes the ground as he continues to eat, and eats as long as anything green remains. When that is wiped out, he begins on anything and everything in reach—board fences, window and door screens, clothing and even the edged tools. After a rain he will eat the fuzz off a weather-beaten fence, making the boards look as though they had just been run through a planer.

He eats the paint off the wire screens and deposits an acid that cuts the wires. He goes unbidden everywhere. Men protect themselves with strings tied around the bottom of their trousers legs. Ladies are less fortunate, if too proud to wear bloomers.

The hen eats the Lo-cus with avidity, and he takes his revenge by spoiling her eggs. The cow goes dry for want of feed, and the babe suffers for lack of milk. The concatenation of his disasters is endless. He stalls railroad trains and interferes with interstate commerce. His attacks on the fields is more disastrous than a hail storm. The farmer fights him without avail. The sheet-iron "hopper-dozer," covered with coal tar, dragged over the fields gathers him in by bushels. He is put in piles like hay-cocks and burned. The result is about as effectual as trying to dip Lake Superior dry with a bucket.

Man cannot distinguish the male from the female, but he knows. After the fields are bared, he prepares for the perpetuation of his species. New breaking furnishes the ideal hatchery. The female does the work. A round hole is made in the ground about one inch deep and an eighth in diameter. Into this hole is deposited a potential possibility of about a thousand baby hoppers the coming spring. The Lo-cus appears on time about as big as a flea. He brings his appetite along, and attacks young vegetation with vigor. He reaches maturity in midsummer, encased in an armour concealing his wings. On a sunny day, he climbs up the grass and weeds, fastens the hind feet in the same, and kicks himself out of his shell In half an hour the sun dries out his wings, and he takes his flight. The country is freed of its pest.

The last appearance of the Lo-cus in Otter Tail county, in sufficient numbers to threaten danger, was in 1887. In the latter part of the seven-

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ties they spread the greatest destruction in the county, the year 1877 probably marking the worst devastation. In 1878 no less than two hundred seventy-one farmers of the county borrowed wheat or oats from the county. The commissioners paid eighty cents for wheat and thirty cents for oats; the farmers received this aid by virtue of the legislative act of February, 12, 1878.

A SAD TALE WITH A HAPPY ENDING.

Billy, an early pioneer of Fergus Falls, was an individual such as is often found among the settlers of a frontier. He was shiftless, smooth of tongue and a ne'er-do-well. He was a prolific multiplier of the earth, but did little toward replenishing it in an economic sense.

One winter, when little was doing, a revival started in town and, as salvation was free, Billy availed himself of the privilege of getting something for nothing; got religion and joined the church. Converts were something of a novelty in these days, and Billy's venture gave him a sort of quasi-respectability, which was more than he had enjoyed prior to his "change of heart." In a way it did him some good. He quit drinking, to excess at least, and showed a disposition to work at odd jobs, if not too strenuous, which contributed to the support of his numerous and ever-increasing family. But the confidence of the elders and brethren generally, in Billy's regeneration, was a little too precipitate. If the "ruling passion" be strong in death, it is more vigorous and active in robust life.

Some months after he had become a member in good and regular standing in the church honored by his membership, Billy was arrested on complaint of a Scandinavian servant girl, charging him with being the putative author and father of her child. The offense has a statutory name with which we will not mar the page of this chaste tale. Billy was haled before the justice court, issuing the warrant of arrest, to answer the wicked charge set out in the complaint. There he asked the privilege of consulting counsel. This being granted, the officer conducted him to the office of the attorney of his choice, where they appeared, with Billy in tears. He was so overcome with the weight of his sin that he refused to further blacken his soul by a false denial of guilt. The enormity of his offense, he said, had prayed upon him for some weeks, while the volume of condemnatory evidence was daily increasing.

He was contrite, indeed, and willing to do anything to get rid of the disgrace. It was the "disgrace" that troubled him most. His lawyer asked him why he had not consulted him earlier, when something in the way of compromise might have been effected. "Because," said Billy, "Elder Pickit and Elder Compton told me to 'live it down.' "

Billy's father being out of town, he was unable to give bail of five

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hundred dollars fixed by the justice for his appearance next day, so the sheriff had to take charge of him in the meantime. Billy asked the officer to take him home, as he wanted to see his wife. On reaching there, they found, as was natural, the wife in tears. Billy, in his best prayer-meeting tone, put his arm around her and said: "Let's forget it, Mary; let's forget it."

The final outcome of the case was less solemn. Billy was placed under bonds for his appearance at the next term of the district court to answer the charge. Before that court convened, a Norwegian farmer fell in love with the girl, and wanted to marry her. She, Barkis-like, was "willin'."

This farmer, being of a thrifty bent of mind, not content with possessing the idol of his heart, alone, bethought him to see if he could not get something out of Billy at the same time. With that end in view, he came to town and opened negotiations with the father of a part, at least, of his future family.

Billy, impecunious, of course, was ready and willing to amicably adjust matters. It was finally agreed between the high contracting parties that Billy should give the farmer his note for fifty dollars, due the next year, in consideration of which the farmer was to hold the county harmless, for the support of the child.

The note fell due, as notes have a way of doing, when the payee called to collect it. Billy was on top of a building, shingling, and saw the farmer approaching. He drew up the ladder—closed the portcullis as it were. The farmer from below made known his business. He had come to get his fifty dollars. Strange as it may appear, Billy did not have the money to meet his obligation. He expressed great sorrow and regret that he had overlooked the due day of his note. The farmer was disappointed, too. He wanted to buy a mower from Stordock & Springen, and lacked just fifty dollars of enough to pay for it.

"Well, that's all right," said Billy. "Just go down to Stordock & Springen and turn the note in toward payment for the machine. I am perfectly willing for you to do that, though as a general thing I dislike to have my paper hawked around, but it will be all right in this instance."

The farmer was happy at having his financial difficulties removed, and started for Stordock & Springen. He soon returned and found Billy still on the barn with the ladder drawn up. He said Stordock & Springen refused to take the note at any price—that it wasn't worth the ink used to write it.

"Did my friends, Stordock & Springen, say that?" said Billy. "I never looked for such unkindness from them. It hurts me more to hear that than

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it does you not to get the money. I shall make it a point to see them about this. I surely will."

"Well," said the farmer, "come down and let us go and see them now."

"No," replied Billy, "I haven't time. I am very busy."

"Well, come down and see me, then. I won't take more than five minutes of your time."

"Not now," Billy said, "I am very anxious to finish this job."

There is a rumor current that the note was never paid.

THE FERGUS FALLS COOKING CLUB.

Someone has called this the Age of Electricity; locally, it might be called the Age of Clubs. Such designation finds justification when the list of clubs and societies is examined in this work. Many such have come and gone, but many are still extant. The longest lived and most successful of all is, without doubt, the one named above.

The Fergus Falls Cooking Club was founded in 1891 by the ladies alone, as a foil, defense or offset to the Men's Century Club The latter was a literary organization. It met once a month at a hotel, where dinner was served, after which the members repaired to the parlor and listened to a paper on some topic of general interest, selected by the person presenting it. As it cost only ten cents to join this club, it may be imagined that the membership was large. That sum was within reach of most all the males in town, and nearly all availed themselves of its privileges. Though the club was large, yet the number that could be relied on to prepare and read papers was small. This work, for that reason, soon became burdensome, and the organization began to wane, and at last disbanded.

The members of the Century Club whose wives had formed the Cooking Club united on a plan for protective measures. It was not conducive to comfort or happiness for these men to sit at home while their wives were off to the Cooking Club, enjoying good things to eat, and discussing, doubtless, the merits, and possibly the demerits, of their respective husbands. Everyone knows how much harder it is for men to remain at home alone than it is for their wives, home being the natural place for women, who are supposed to remain in their "sphere of influence." These lonesome men secretly agreed among themselves that on the next Cooking Club night they would gather and at the proper hour present themselves in a body at the club's place of meeting, pray admission and throw themselves on the sympathy and charity of their wives. The plan worked out well, and when the ladies heard that the Country Club was defunct and abandoned, they welcomed the men.

It was then agreed that the husbands should be members of the club, but without the right to vote. "Votes for Men" would be seen on no banner. The ladies were to furnish food and the gentlemen the entertainment for

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each monthly meeting. This arrangement worked well for a time. The men tried harder to supply amusements than they did to write papers for the Century Club. One night they would have charades, on another, a musical program. Once in a while a newspaper, called *The Cooking Club Clarion,* typewritten, was produced, full of local hits, burlesque editorials and other items of faked news. Sometimes a moot court would be organized, and charges against a member tried with all pomp and circumstance, and once an elaborate negro minstrel act was put on. These entertainments became burdensome. The subjects ran short; the actors disliked to repeat themselves; some "grew weary in well doing," and the work became a greater burden than writing papers for the Century Club. As usual, the ladies were rather exacting, and critical of the men and their entertainments. While it was never said in so many words, still the actors felt that in the opinion of the ladies, they were not "earning their board."

About this time it occurred to the men that there were suffragettes in the club, some of whom, at times, wore bloomers. The suggestion was natural that they vary the program, and give an entertainment pertaining to woman suffrage and reform in woman's dress. Of course, it was a mistake. The men forgot to take into account the female sense of humor and inability to appreciate a joke where their sex is concerned. While there was no woman suffrage society in town, the men assumed that there was. The entertainment decided upon was to be in form of an address by Mrs. Bones, suffragette, to such society.

The part of Mrs. Bones was taken by one of the men, dressed in bloomers, a frontal wig, hat with feathers, cutaway coat, white stockings and slippers. His "get up" was surely a work of futurist art, and the ladies were justified in feeling the disgust which some plainly showed as Mrs. Bones stepped forth to deliver her address to the "Female Suffrage Society of Fergus Falls," delivered in condescending manner and patronizing tone. "Mrs. Bones" has kindly permitted us to copy "her" address, on condition that "her" identity be not disclosed. The address is here given, and completely justifies the ladies' revolt against it:

"Fellow Suffragists—Women and Men:

"Old formulas, with old injustice, are passing away. Our movement inaugurated a directness in sharp contrast to the old, circumlocutionary forms and methods. We now begin an address with plain 'Women and Men,' not 'Ladies and Gentlemen.'

"At first thought—we do not use 'blush' any more—at first thought, this may seem an undue bluntness, but its comprehensiveness warrants it. On some occasions 'ladies and gentlemen' might not apply to any one in an audi-

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ence; but 'women and men' cover them all. These methods, carried along all lines, saves an endless amount of useless nonsense.

"The homage once paid to beauty, so called, is now laid at the foot of intellect. Such attentions at one time so appealed to my own vanity as to delay, somewhat, my entry into this broader field and nobler work. I embraced the cause early. I was a mere girl in my teens. That was five or six years ago; but when I once put my hands to the bloomers, I never looked back at the fashion plates. Some of the things I have observed during my public career may be of interest to the members of your budding society here. I admonish you to be firm in the good work, and do not permit yourselves to be discouraged or turned aside by any obstacle. That is the course I have always pursued.

"I remember, on one occasion, soon after I had donned the habiliments of equality, I was riding in an overcrowded street car. Many males were standing. Females occupied all the seats. The car stopped when a thing in skirts and frills entered. Not one offered her a seat. I caught the eye of a horrid man looking at me, when he said: 'Why don't you give the lady your seat?' 'Because,' I answered, 'the lady who occupies it is resting on her own rights.' He glanced at my bloomers, and soon left the car. I have always looked back at that incident with a great deal of satisfaction. It was the first time I had ever been taken for a man.

"Not a great while after I had entered upon my chosen mission, the question of marriage presented itself. Was it my duty to take upon myself the care of a husband? It was a question I steeled myself to solve, alone. I knew too well with what scorn such a proposition would be received by my fellow workers for the elevation of our sex.

"I discovered that love and the domestic instincts were not wholly merged in bloomers. I did not think of abandoning our cause—oh, no—I only thought of matrimony as an aid to the fullest and highest development. In my heart I believed that it was not always good for woman to live alone. That a judicious union with some congenial soul, to care for home in my absence and listen with loving anxiety for my returning footsteps, was really essential to the full expansion of hope. A union with some affinity, whose heart throbs would beat in harmony with woman's higher aspirations, could be but an aid to her soul's fruition.

"Chance had thrown me in contact with a loving young being, for whom I was conscious of an ever-increasing regard. He was young, pure and inexperienced. No word of love had ever been whispered by me, but the tell-tale droop of his eye, the gentle flush of his cheek, and the happy smile with which he ever greeted me, told as plainly as words that my suit would not be in vain. This knowledge, coupled with a strict sense of what was

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his due, hastened a decision. Duty and right demanded that I speak, or forever abandon the hopes of love, home and a family. With the New Woman, to decide is to act.

"It was in the month of June. Nature seemed to have exerted her energies to create a night suitable for love. The moon, with chaste and mellow beams, kissed the face of all earthly things and touched the heart with pensiveness. The whippoorwill sang his song in the hidden copse; the cricket chirped his love to his faithful mate, while the soft south wind, with touch as gentle as Alfonso's breath, lifted the silken locks from his noble brow, inviting as it were the chastened kiss of love.

"I took his hand in mine. Encouraged by his non-resistance, my arm stole round his willowy form and gentle drew him closer to my beating side. He was submissive to my embrace. The life-giving currents, surcharged with the electricity of love, tingled through my veins. An uncontrollable impulse impelled me to aid polarization by a closer contact. As our lips met, the equilibrium was restored at once.

" 'Darling,' I whispered, 'will you be mine; be a light to my life—a joy to my home—the father of our family?' His answer was a pressure of the hand, a quickening of the breath, as he tenderly raised his drooping eyes to mine. The moon shone on; the whippoorwill sang in the copse; the cricket chirped to his mate, and all nature seemed to sanctify that sacred pledge.

"To receive the guardianship of so young a life, just budding into manhood, brought its weight of responsibility, and nerved me to renewed exertion. Much of my success in life I attribute to the pure, loyal and sacrificing home-keeper who pledged his troth to me that lovely night in June.

"Speaking of husbands, I want to say, particularly, to the unmarried females of your club, that some consideration should be paid to their management. They require an early breaking-in as colts. A kind, but firm, rein is necessary from the start. Should he display any distaste for the new mode of dress, you should don the bloomers at once. Such dislike must not be tolerated. I well remember my own experience in this regard. One day my husband said to me: 'You are trying very hard to look like a man, it seems.' 'Well,' I answered, 'Don't you think we need one in the family?'

"He has raised no objections since.

"A word aptly spoken is generally sufficient to silence any nonsensical allusion to our modern style of dress. One day, as I was sitting in the park, listening to the bird songs, and observing how my new pants harmonized with nature's forms and colorings, a dude sauntered by and, glancing at my bloomers, impertinently offered me a cigar. I said:

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'No, thanks; I do not care to smoke,
But by jingo, if I do,
I've got the match, I've got the mouth,
I've got the Se-gar, too.'

"He said some silly thing about knowing I had a mouth, and passed on.

"Under the old regime, it used to be said that women could never master the mysteries of parliamentary law. That nonsense is heard no longer. In presiding over public meetings, I have always preferred the gavel, though many—perhaps a majority—resort to tears. This latter mode of preserving order and stopping debate has never been understood by the opposite sex. Their senseless ridicule, though, is not so potent as it was in the earlier days of our movement. I notice that Mrs. Holden, the 'Amber' of the Chicago press, and president of the Bohemian Club of that city, uses, in lieu of both gavel and tears, a horn. This is very appropriate when we remember that the horn of scripture was a symbol of power.

"I once attended a female convention, called to discuss what ought to be done for our foreign sisters in Africa. They were in darkness, and in need of many reforms never suggested by the missionaries. One side argued that our dusky sisters should be first taught to resist the *tyranny of man;* the other that *reform in dress* was of primary importance. It was one of the most animated and sad discussions I ever witnessed. The tumult passed beyond control of the presiding officer. The humidity on such occasions makes it rather hard for rheumatic tendencies. Nothing was accomplished at the time, but I learned afterward that the society agreed to attempt the dress reform first, but discovered that the example of frivolous girl missionaries had rendered the introduction of bloomers utterly impossible. The benighted mind showed an unalterable prejudice in favor of feathers, skirts and furbelows in vogue under the old regime. The only hope seemed in a reformation of the missionaries themselves.

"While I do not disapprove of marriage under proper conditions, as you have heard, still, I do not advocate it. Husbands are often a great hindrance to the elevation of our sex. A few more years of development will be required to fit and make man contented with his present, proper condition. It rests with woman to hasten that time, as she has hastened her own emancipation. Yet, in view of the frail and emotional nature of their sex, I advocate patience and charity. 'Reformation' and not 'extinction,' should be our watchword.

"While the crowding of men into the sphere of woman must never be tolerated, still, in his proper field, he should receive our encouragement. Male house servants should be given preference. This course has advantages which I need not stop to enumerate. The man-milliner should be

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patronized, exclusively, and male dressmakers the same. It is their proper sphere; besides, in the reform style of our habiliments, it must be confessed they display a more intimate knowledge, if not better taste.

"The men are superior as governors of our children and, since the introduction of Mellen's food, make decidedly better nurses. So it will not do to flatter ourselves that we are superior in all things. I hear that your good work here is encouraged by the membership of two worthy males, Doctor Welch and Mr. Hilton. Male members are proper and a due amount of encouragement should be extended to them, though I think you should check, somewhat, Doctor Welch's tendency to do all the talking, himself."

The male activities in the Cooking Club soon ceased after the curtain fell on this act. This quiescence was hastened by the ladies themselves, who gave a counter program at the next meeting, when these ungallant and ungrateful men were fricasseed and served brown and hot. Now, decorum reigns at the club meetings. Food is served and partaken with propriety, after which the men retire to enjoy their cigars, while the ladies formulate the menu for the next month; after which cards are played by all who so wish to pass the time.

Good food insures the longevity of any club.

THE VILLAGE BAKER.

That "change is marked on everything" is best seen by him whose life has extended over a period of three score years and ten. Different habits and customs, so quietly but persistently encroach upon present methods and manners as to be almost imperceptible. But a little variation here, a minute addition there, lead to differentiations, the total results of which are, in time, noticeable to the most casual observer. The sum of all these stand for what in human conduct may be termed sociological development. Sometimes these changes result in what we term "for the better," and sometimes in what we call "for the worse."

This is best illustrated by example. The brusque, abrupt and inconsiderate manner, peculiar to this age of dollar worship, is in striking contrast to the urbane, polite and deferential spirit which characterized our pioneer merchants in the earlier day. The village baker was the living exemplification of the suavity of manner peculiar to our tradespeople. He advertised extensively, and took a pardonable pride in his fresh bread and any reflection upon that article of consumption would have been taken as a personal affront to the proprietor. All ladies know that there are times when stale bread is a necessity in the commissary department of every household. It so happened on one occasion that several ladies of the village wanted to use stale bread on a particular day. One stepped into the bakery and inquired of the proprietor if he had any "stale bread." He replied that he did not keep stale

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bread—his bread was fresh. Not long after another lady called and inquired for the same article and received the same answer slightly emphasized. Soon another called, and finally a fourth—the minister's wife. The baker by this time was mad all through and cried out in a tone that could be heard a block: "What in blank nation ails all you women, anyway? More than twenty have been in here today asking for 'stale bread,' when every blank one of you know that I never sold an ounce of stale bread in my life!" It is superfluous to add that negotiations ended right here.

THE ESTHETIC SIDE OF FERGUS FALLS.

While love of the "almighty dollar" had its influence in the moral and material development of Fergus Falls, still the esthetic and artistic considerations were by no means overlooked or neglected. To have done so would have been to make a lopsided and only partially developed people of the denizens of the "Coming City." They were anything but that. Fergus Falls in these early days was a veritable melting pot, in which were fused the peoples from many lands, resulting in a well-balanced citizenship, impressed with the heterogeneous "kultur" of many different lands from which the people sprang. Here mingled the Dutch, German, French, Italian, English, Irish, Scotch, Norsk, Swensk and Dansk, with one South American from Uruguay thrown in—good people all, with some exceptions, of course.

The full expression of the esthetic side of humanity, of necessity, relies somewhat upon the "almighty dollar." It is a means to an end. Such full expression required conveniences for gatherings, where artistic longings may have scope for development. An "opera house" was soon demanded, and the demand supplied in the fall of 1871 by one Dave Miles, merchant from Wisconsin.

He built a frame store building on the southeast corner of Lincoln and Union avenues, and over this structure, a hall, suitable for the then primitive needs of the place. The town was soon deprived of this enterprising citizen's companionship through some misunderstanding between him and his creditors, resulting in bankruptcy proceedings, but the "opera house" remained. It was utilized for every imaginable purpose—caucuses, political conventions, church services, choir meetings and the dances succeeding the same; barnstormers, local shows and concerts.

This "opera house" was formally "opened" in the early winter of 1871-2, by the "Italian Ole Bull; the Greatest Violinist, Ventriloquist and Tenor of the Nineteenth Century," so said his bills and advance agent, Phillip. Phillip was defective in his understandings. This has no mental significance, but relates to his legs, one of which was defective at the knee. This member was about six inches shorter than its companion, caused by a

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stiff knee joint, which gave Phillip, when he walked, a decidedly up and down motion. This misfortune and inconvenience was not without its advantages in an "advance agent." It served as an advertisement, drawing attention to the show.

Phillip and Ole drifted into town one cold day in January, and the advance agent, to meet the most people in the shortest possible time, made the rounds of the saloons, when he advertised the advent of the great violinist, ventriloquist and tenor, who would give his celebrated and world-renowned entertainment at the "opera house" that evening. Phillip was genial, energetic and companionable. On an invitation to take a drink, he could reach the bar as quickly as any man with both legs sound. He pictured, glowingly, the phenomenal powers of the Italian Ole Bull, and in this way aroused an interest which resulted in a small and not very select audience for the coming event.

Ole may have possessed all the powers claimed for him by Phillip, but on the night in question he was, decidedly, in bad form. To state the fact bluntly, Ole was drunk. The wails, screeches and groans of his violin as he murdered the poor thing, were nerve racking, while his attempts to sing broke up the entertainment, and the boys all returned to the saloon to await the coming of Phillip.

Phillip soon appeared and was surrounded by an indignant crowd, clamoring for a return of gate receipts, accompanied by dire threats if not paid at once. Phillip was contrite and conciliatory. He told his dupes that he would gladly refund the money, but did not have it; it had been turned over to Ole. He conceded the justice of the claim and deplored the failure of the entertainment. "The truth is," he said, "the professor ate too heartily at supper. His lungs were so full of food that he could not sing!" This explanation seemed adequate, and the crowd became generous and assisted Phillip to forget his sorrows in a manner most agreeable to him.

This artistic pair went next day to Elizabeth, where Phillip had to pawn the professor's Stradivarius to pay their hotel bill, and they departed forever, for parts unknown.

This "Miles opera house" served its purpose for two or three years, when one Ole Sundall built a brick one, directly across Union avenue. The auditorium was in the second story of this brick building and reached by a stairway in the middle of the building, starting at the street and ending within a few feet of the stage. The best idea of this place of amusement may be gained from a legend written on the wall of a ramshackle "play house" in Texas, as follows: "This is the worst opera house we ever played in except the one at Fergus Falls, Minn."

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We have a better one now, the Lyceum, on Bismark avenue, modern, with a seating capacity of about six hundred, but the old one served its purpose, and varied was the talent that entertained the populace within its walls. Among these were Henry Ward Beecher, Doctor Talmage, Emma Abbott, Thomas Keen, Colonel Copeland, Edouard Remenyi, Camilla Urso, Billy Marble, and many others too numerous for mention.

Billy Marble, with his Uncle Tom's Cabin troupe, was a prime favorite, and came time and time again. He was here one fall during the county fair. A matinee was advertised for one afternoon. The house was full; the hour was up, but Billy had not come. After waiting for what seemed a long time, Billy came wabbling up the stair, was steered behind the curtain; gotten into his costume and the show was ready to begin. Billy stepped to the front of the stage and, in a rather thick voice, said: "'Cuse me, ladies and gentlemen, I'm little late. Fact is, been to the races. Fellows bet whiskey an' I held stakes."

It would take too long to tell of the many "local talent" shows put on the boards at the old opera house. Home talent showed a penchant for the more somber plays, like "East Lynne" and "Ten Nights in a Bar Room." George Waters was the foot-lights favorite in the latter play. His interpretation of the model young man's progress through the Ten Nights, up to the besotted wreck of the last act, where he is seized with delirium tremens, will never be forgotten by those privileged to witness it. He could "tear a passion to tatters," and make the blood run cold, and at his last appearance he "tore" more than a "passion." As he was writhing on the floor in the awful throes of delirium, he tore the buttons all off his trousers, and in the last terrific lunge left them behind on the floor, when the "delirium" was transferred from the stage to the audience.

When Remenyi came in 1882, the piano on which his accompaniments were to be played was placed on the stage in position for use. Remenyi's manager tested the instrument, and told Smith, the manager of the opera house, that the piano was not "high" enough; that it must be put up to "concert pitch." Smith assured him that that should be done. When Remenyi appeared it was discovered that Smith had "raised" the piano to concert pitch by placing a brick under each front leg. Remenyi swore in Polish. The audience could not understand the language, but realized that it was something emphatic.

It cost something to get first-class talent to come to us. Beecher exacted a guarantee of four hundred dollars, which was readily raised. It required two hundred dollars to secure Talmage two weeks later, and the difference in price measured quite accurately the value between the two.

In 1897 the Schumann Club was organized by the ladies of Fergus

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Falls, and has continued a live and prosperous organization to the present time. It is more particularly described in another part of this History. Through its efforts the people of Fergus Falls are enabled to listen to musical talent from outside three or four times a year. The club has been well supported in its efforts in this direction and has had marked effect on the musical taste of the city.

In addition to this, the Northwestern College and the Park Region Luther College, in conjunction with the high school, usually secure a course of lectures and musical recitals each winter, all of which are well patronized and have become a standard feature in the city every year.

A list of these artists and character of their entertainments would show a marked upward progress from the Italian Ole Bull, Billy Marble and "Ten Nights in a Bar Room" period. The musical entertainments most appreciated and best attended are those of the Minneapolis Symphony Orchestra.

The literary excellence of our city had its inception back in historic days. In the early municipal dawn, there existed in town a firm engaged in the sale of agricultural machinery, the senior member of which devoted a great portion of his spare moments to politics and factional disturbances. He was fond of airing his opinions through the press. He came to look upon his position on any given question as of great interest to the community and was constantly defining it in the newspaper. King, the editor of the *Advocate,* possessed a keen appreciation of the unique in literature, and was always glad to grant space to this versatile vender of industrial implements. He was fond of reasoning from analogy—stating his premises and following with the conclusion. I can recall a single instance which created a good deal of quiet amusement. He led up to the climax by stating his entire responsibility for the opinions he expressed, and closed by informing his readers that, "as every tub must stand on its own bottom, therefore I must stand on mine." He was ever afterwards known as the "tub." His success in the realm of letters inspired his junior partner to turn his hand and mind to a little literary work; so he determined to court the muse, and pluck the laurels of poesy. He was endowed with a poetical cast of countenance, thin, thoughtful and cadaverous, and during the brief period of his literary labors, looked as though "melancholy had marked him for her own." He finished his first and probably his last poem, and submitted it to the critical eye of a confidential druggist. This friend advised him by all means to publish it, but sought, as an especial favor, before that was done, a copy of the poem in the author's own handwriting. It was never published. I learned it from the druggist's copy, and submit to your literary judgment the only stanza I can recall:

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"The autumn leaves are falling
On the old Red river shore;
And the catfish they are wailing,
As I never saw before."

"WHAT DO THE GLASSY WATERS HIDE?"

The merits and demerits of Lake Alice, now under discussion in the local press of Fergus Falls, is not a new subject. The lake, thirty years ago, inspired our poets, who sang its beauties in numbers as soft and sweet as the ripples of its waters.

So we rescue those literary gems from the hidden files of early newspapers and give them a niche in this history that they may be seen of generations yet to come. In this way we perpetuate the name and claim of our local poets who were wont to mount and rein Pegasus to the brink of this lake for a draught of its ambrosial waters, to refresh and strengthen his Parnassian flights.

WHAT DO THE GLASSY WATERS HIDE?

(By Nellie Kliff, written on the shores of Lake Alice.)

As I sit this evening, gazing
On the water, glancing bright,
Rippling past me in the glory
Of the sunset's dying light.

Strange, sad thoughts are coming to me
Which I cannot well define.
Would that I could give them utterance,
Trace a thought in every line.

Still I linger, gazing sadly—
Evening deepens into night;
Still the waters ripple past me.
Shimmering in the fading light.

And I wonder now, as gently
On and on they ever glide,
What beneath their beauteous surface
Do these glassy waters hide.

And methinks they're like the casket
Of some living human soul,
O'er whose spirit waves of trouble,
Dark and gloomy, often roll.

Filled ofttimes with grief and sorrow,
Packed with many inward pain;
Yet to gaze upon the surface,
You might look for them in vain.

'Twere not well to show the world
What is hidden in the heart;
Oft 'twould cast a gloom o'er pleasure,
Often make the tear-drop start.

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Then, may I go forth as bravely
  Though within all should be drear,
By mild and loving actions
  Lone and sorrowing ones to cheer.

May 23, 1883.

The same condition existed in Fergus Falls thirty-three years ago that does now in that no one could make an inquiry through the public press without getting an answer. Accordingly when the *Morning Telegram* appeared the next day it contained the answer to "What Do the Glassy Waters Hide?" the poem being from the pen of Dr. R. M. Reynolds, who also lived near the shores of Lake Alice. His answer was as follows:

AN ECHO FROM LAKE ALICE.

(Being an answer to the inquiry "What Do the Glassy Waters Hide?" By one of the Lake poets.)

When the summer sun, returning
  Thrills the heart of mother earth,
Then the thoughts that have been churning
  In the poet's mind, find birth.

Of the myst'ries of creation
  In impromptu verse he sings;
Racks his brain with cogitation
  On all sorts of cosmic things.

Pond'ring thus on nature's riddle,
  Nellie seeks the Alician shore;
Paddles out into the middle,
  Where the awful billows roar.

And she questions them in numbers
  Smoothly gliding like the tide,
"What beneath their beauteous surface
  Do these glassy waters hide?"

Lest a ceaseless cogitation
  On this mystery, in vain,
Might cause mental aberration—
  Maybe softening of the brain;

Though I can't tell half or quarter
  Of the contents of the lake,
I'll investigate the water
  For the charming poet's sake.

Will describe in simple manner
  All the objects that I find,
So that any common man or
  Woman won't get left behind

First I see a hydrogastrum
  With a ciliated tail,
Trying to make a square repast on
  A microscopic whale.

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Protozoa by the dozens,
  By the hundreds, protophytes,
Vorticellae and their cousins,
  The voracious polypites.

'Round and 'round rolls the globator
  While the flagellata glares
Like a pigmy alligator
  At the baby planatares.

Lizards, leeches and batrachians,
  All sorts of wriggling worms,
Platyhelminths and selachians,
  And everything that squirms.

Would you know what else lies hidden
  'Neath the glassy lakelet's wave?
Many and many a new-born kitten
  There has found a watery grave.

Why haunts the canine mother
  That lakelet's fatal shore?
She would tell you that another
  Lovely litter's gone before.

And beneath its beauteous surface,
  Old fruit cans, boots and shoes
Lie, a mould'ring heap of refuse,
  And anything else you choose.

And many other wonders
  I could easily relate.
But my guilty conscience thunders
  "You'll bring down real estate."

May 24, 1883.

CHARLES J. WRIGHT.

Charles J. Wright, one of the early settlers of Fergus Falls, was not only a successful man of affairs, but also a follower of the muses. He was a ready writer and graceful poetry and virile prose came from his pen with equal facility. He wrote hundreds of poems which found their way into print; some under his own name and many others under one of several nom de plumes which he assumed—"Owlet," "Amicus," "Brads," and "W. J. C." He had a keen sense of the ridiculous as well as a deep appreciation of the sublime, both characteristics finding expression in his verse. Two of his poems are given here, illustrative of these two qualities:

PARTING.

When forced to part from friends we love,
  Though sure to meet tomorrow,
We yet a touch of sadness prove
  And feel a vein of sorrow.

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But O, what words can paint the fear,
When from loved friends we sever,
Perhaps to part for months—for years—
Perhaps to part forever.

CHILDHOOD'S DAYS.

Some sage philosopher of old
(Some fool, if I may be so bold)
Wrote, with a bright idea possessed,
That childhood's days were happiest.
This adage "wise" (?) was handed down
From sire to son (from clown to clown),
Until at last the thing fast grew,
And every one believes it true.

For business men, oppressed with cares,
With striving to be millionaires;
And old men, grown a little hazy,
And young men on some damsel crazy:
All backward looked at childhood then,
And sighed, and wished them boys again,
Forgetting how, when babies, they
Were pinned, and trussed, and spanked each day,
And made to swallow catnip tea,
And water, salt as salt could be,
And how, when older, packed to school,
And made to sit on dunce's stool;
The master "walloped" them right well,
Whene'er a word they could not spell.

And how big boys threw snow at them;
And if they dared to cry, they spat them;
And if at marbles they did play,
Big boys would take them all away.
Forgetting all their childhood's pain,
Children they wish to be again.
'Tis ever thus, the feeble mind
Turns from the front to look behind.

And, gazing backward to its youth,
Forgets the stern and bitter truth,
That we must bravely march ahead,
Let the dead past bury the dead;
Nor backward look to childhood then,
Nor wish to be a boy again.

THE YOUNG NORWEGIAN.

'Tis of a young Norwegian boy
That lived at Hastingsville,
That I would write a poem sad
And cause your eyes to fill,
And each partic'lur hair to stand,
Like to a hedgehog quill.

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This Norwegian, a full face had;
    And eyes of yellowish hue,
That were so big, wher'er he looked,
    You'd think he looked at you.
His hair was long enough to tie
    U'p in a Chinese que

This amorous Norwegian boy,
    On every Sunday night,
His best clothes would put on,
    Although the pantaloons were tight.
And oil put on his hair until
    All 't wanted was a light.

He then would strut along to church,
    And find himself a pew,
Right back of where some pretty girls
    Were sitting in full view;
And he would grin and ogle them;
    This boy of whitish hue.

And when the church was out at last,
    This bold young Norwegian,
The girls would quickly follow out,
    As if it was his plan,
To see them home, this fancy chap,
    As big as any man.

He'd walk along aside of them,
    And help them through the mud,
And offer them (the generous chap)
    Of gum his only cud,
And swear that in defense of them
    He'd fight while he had blood.

But O, one time (how can I tell
    The horrors of that night)
He went to see them home again
    (His pantaloons were tight);
He went to lift them through the mud,
    They split both left and right.

Black, icy horrors seized on him,
    He dropped the handsome girl
Plump in the mud; and then he turned,
    This young Norwegian churl,
And scooted through the darksome street
    Nor stopped his shirt to furl.

At length he reached the river bank,
    And turned his flying step
To where the son of fishing holes
    Was kept by "Mother Shep,"
And to the largest, deepest one
    This sad Norwegian crept.

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Moral.

Take warning of this Norwegian;
Now deep from morning's light,
And when you go to take girls home
From meeting Sunday night,
Beware of lifting them about,
Or having breeches tight.

THE PHANTOM SHIP.

The wind was blowing strong and high,
The winter's piercing breeze
Was urging onward in its course
Among the raging seas
A vessel powerful and large
As anything afloat;
The name that fated vessel bore
Was "Hudson Kanawl Boat."

The pilot's eye was glazed and stern;
His hand upon the wheel
Still drove the vessel straightly on
And still the armed heel
Of Billy Patterson, the man
Who drove the Kanawl mule,
Dug in the sides of that poor brute—
The name she bore was "Jule."

The captain at the bow did stand
To watch the driving spray
Which dashed on every side
Of that ship on her way:
Tonight he thought he'd land
And sell the garden sass
And then tomorrow merrily
Toward home again would pass.

Ah! ne'er again that boat shall sail
And dash the foamy spray;
The captain ne'er again will see
The dawning of the day.
His bones shall bleach twelve fathoms deep
Far from the light of Sol.
And coral insects build his tomb
Deep in the black Kanawl.

All, all at once the proud ship stopped;
The captain wished to know
What stopped the progress of the boat—
The mule she would not go.
He forward stepped to "lam" the beast
And slipped into the brine;
His body forms the choicest dish
On which the fishes dine.

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At length the mule was forced to go.
But soon there was a shock—
The noble Kanawl boat had run
Upon a coral rock.
The cruel waves dashed in her sides,
The sailors they were drowned;
The garding sass the Mermen took—
No goods the wreckers found.

Since then on many a darksome night
It rains and hails and blows;
A phantom mule goes tramping by:
A phantom ship follows;
A phantom captain at the bows;
A phantom driver calls,
And then the phantoms all sink deep
In the deep and dark Kanawl.

IDYLS OF THE SURVEYOR.

By Fred Quiggle.

"How sweet the smell of beans upon the air!"
Young Ronald murmured, hurrying toward the camp.
Adown the west the sun was sinking low.
The nor, by nor'east wind blew cold and damp:
And as he through a windfall tried to mizzle,
Far down his back the snow and rain did drizzle.

But visions of the campfire flashed before,
And little recked he of the slush and sleet.
The unctuous bill of fare his bosom cheered,
And put fresh spirit in his lagging feet.
For ere he left that morn, the cook with glee
Informed him what he might expect for tea.

Darker and darker grew the sullen night,
Wetter and wetter came the slush and snow:
Faster and faster yet, with eager feet,
Did Ronald through the tamarack marshes go.
Through the prickly ash and deadfalls straight he bore.
Nor cared a darn how much his breeches tore.

And as he skinned along, to cheer his lot,
Regaled, his mind with dishes rich and rare.
And in his intellectual pabulum,
He showed himself a true-born epicure.
If epicure were written care, my rhyme
Were perfect. But just now I'm pressed for time.

"Ah, yes; how sweet the smell of baking beans
When cooking with sowbelly in the pot.
And what with generous doughgods can compare,
Unless it be slumgullion, piping hot?
While juice of cow and fruit of hen combine
To make a lickdob that is really fine.

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"Loblolly, too, when steaming in the cup,
And oxslides towering in the baking pan,
And yellow dobawls, covered o'er with dope,
Do elevate and cheer the inward man."
But even as he spoke, in wild dismay
He stopped and cried, "The d—l is to pay!"

Before him were the members of the camp,
Fast dying. But the tents, oh, where were they?
"Ask of the winds—." "But, no, I won't. If I
Must quote, why, then, the cook shall have his say.
"As soon as he has left, we'll put for town,
And come a derned good cod on Mister Brown."

For one small moment Ronald wildly stamped
And in his grief his auburn tresses tore.
And when at last he understood the joke,
I really am afraid my hero swore.
But as that helped him not, in sad array
He started for his hash-house, miles away.

THE R. R. S. W. N. CO.

While "Great hopes make great men," they failed in 1873 to effect the coming of a railroad to Fergus Falls, and a number of the more enterprising citizens of the "Coming City" resolved to take matters into their own hands, and provide the inhabitants with a system of cheap water transportation. If the railroad companies could not appreciate the great advantage of building through the town, they must take the consequences of their lack of foresight when they did build, and meet the competition of low rates secured by a water route.

The Northern Pacific railroad crossed the Red river some sixty miles northeast of Fergus Falls, and our empire builders figured that, by a system of locks and dams, the stream could be made navigable for boats between the Northern Pacific railroad and Fergus Falls. The rapids of the river ended just below this place, and flour from the Fergus mills had been shipped by flat boats to Winnepeg, some two hundred miles north in a straight line.

These conditions attracted the attention of our embryo Hills, Harrimans and Goulds and moved them to initiate a system which was to put us in direct commercial touch with the business world, to our own great advantage and to the consternation of the laggard railroads.

With these ends in view, the "town builders" in June, 1873, formed a corporation under the formidable name of the Red River Slack Water Navigation Company, with an authorized capital of five hundred thousand dollars. The "business" of this corporation as named in its corporate articles was: "To improve the navigation of the Red river of the North, by building

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dams, locks, sluices and other erections for convenient prosecution of the enterprise, and to construct, equip, maintain and operate tow-boats, barges and other water vessels which may be conveniently used upon said river for transportation of freight, express and passengers from a point where the Northern Pacific railroad crosses the Red river of the North at or near Perham to Fergus Falls, with such feeders as may be required for the profitable use of the same."

The incorporators and officers of this imposing company were: Jacob Austin, president; Henry G. Page, treasurer; J. W. Mason, secretary and general counsel; Robert Miller, chief engineer; Charles H. Goodsell, O. S. King, E. E. Corliss, Louis Goodsell, Edwin M. Wright, George Head, Samuel H. Nichols and James Compton. Fergus Falls, of course, was designated as the principal place of business of the corporation.

The amount of capital stock named in no sense indicated the combined assets of the incorporators, nor their joint-impecuniosity, though the gigantic undertaking did give them, in the eyes of the proletariat, a certain distinction, which is often of more value than solvency.

The first step to be taken after the organization was formed was a preliminary survey of the river. The plan adopted was to send a party up to the Northern Pacific crossing, come down stream in a boat, take soundings and make observations. A party was organized for that purpose, consisting of Jacob Austin, C. H. Goodsell, Robert Miller, J. W. Mason, members of the corporation, and J. P. Williams, enterprising volunteer. The corporate members of the party resolved themselves into a committee of ways and means for financing and carrying out the preliminary survey undertaking. They begged or borrowed the following items and articles needed for their purpose, to-wit: a large, long bateau which had been used by the lumbermen in making drives down the river, a tent, blankets, cooking utensils, provisions, and a team and wagon to convey the party and its truck to the head of navigable waters of the Red river "at or near Perham."

Ernest Buse furnished the team, wagon and driver. Intervening years make it impossible to record who furnished the other necessaries, but it is safe to say that Chief Engineer Miller supplied his own sounding rod, the length of which was artistically marked off in feet.

Early one morning in the month of June, 1873, this preliminary surveying party started from Fergus Falls, full of enthusiasm and hope. The people turned out to bid them good-speed; the local newspaper recorded at length the starting of the enterprise to put Fergus Falls on the map as a port-of-entry on the Red river of the North, between a "point near Perham," to Hudson Bay; not forgetting to note the regrets the railroads would

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feel as they contemplated the cargoes of freight shipped by water, which otherwise would have been hauled in box cars.

The load was heavy and progress slow. The first night the party reached Battle lake and camped on the site of the beautiful village which took its name from the lake, one of the many handsome bodies of water dotted all over Otter Tail county. The president of the company was impatient at the slowness of the journey, but the chief engineer, the "Mark Tapley" of the party, argued that it was a good thing to make haste slowly, as it would give the party experience in pitching and striking tent, cooking and accommodating itself to outdoor life and the intricacies of living in a tent. Bob was the most impecunious of the party if their resources admit of comparison, and the longer he stayed out with "bed and board" furnished free, the better it suited him. The next night the party pitched its tent at the Northern Pacific crossing "at or near Perham."

In the morning after breakfast, the bateau was launched, the tent and all other property put aboard, ready to begin the trip down river. The bateau was a long, four-oared boat. The president took his seat in the stern with steering paddle in hand to direct the boat on its downward course. He commanded each man to take an oar. The order was obeyed, and they swung gallantly into the middle of the stream with bow pointed towards the port-of-entry. Soon Bob dropped his oar, grasped his sounding rod and commenced jabbing it into the water. "Here," hallowed Jake, "drop that d——d stick and hang to your oar." Bob obeyed, but he then and there discarded his Mark Tapley characteristics, and remained sullen and dissatisfied during the whole journey home; his sounding rod reposed in "innocuous desuetude," and he declared privately to the secretary and general counsel, that he would make no report of the survey, whatever.

Sailing orders were furnished by the president. Orders were issued that while in the stream two oars should be used, and while passing through lakes, four must assist the propulsion of the bateau. While in the stream, Bob could have, of course, made soundings, but this he did not do, nor did anyone suggest it to him. He was in no mood to receive suggestions. The party progressed down stream without any mishaps, and stopped for lunch at a point just above where the river enters Rush lake.

The party landed and when about ready to proceed noticed a heavy storm coming from the west. The clouds were black and streaked with lightning, and rumbles of thunder came rolling from the storm. It was decided to pitch the tent and prepare for the rain. This was done as quickly as possible. The tent being placed on a bank sloping to the river, a trench was dug above it to conduct the water away. This proved a wise precaution. The work was barely finished when the storm burst with all its fury;

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the rain came in such sheets that the river, but a rod from the tent, could not be seen, and this lasted for over one-half hour. The trench was insufficient to carry all the water, but enough to enable the party to protect most of their belongings from utter destruction.

The storm passed, and the sun came out bright and warm, but the blankets, bedding and clothing were so water soaked that it was decided to delay the trip, and hang the articles on the bushes for the sun and wind to dry.

It was well along towards evening before the party could proceed, and they did not reach Otter Tail City, at the head of Otter Tail lake, till after dark. Here the tent was pitched and the tired ones, all except Williams and Mason, went to bed therein. The two named went to the only, so-called, hotel, where they retired. The secretary and general counsel slept till morning, and when he awoke found that the "guest" of the party, Williams, had disappeared. When found and asked why he quit the hotel, he said there were too many bedfellows; that they were the hungriest lot he ever tried to sleep with; that soon after going to bed he was awakened and seemed on fire from head to foot. He arose and went down to the lake for a plunge, to quench the fire and cool off. He said he had had a taste of hades, and wanted no more of it, and from that time on was going to lead a different life. He may have tried to so live, but his frequent "back-slidings" must have made it expensive to keep his nether garments in presentable repair.

The next morning the wind was so high and the waters of the lake so rough that it was not possible to cross it, so the party remained in camp; the president fretting at the delay, while Miller was contented and serene. The day was spent in company with old McDonald, a Scotchman, about eighty years old, who had lived with the Indians from early boyhood. His squaw wife and a multitude of half-breed children, with other Indians, were there, all curious to see the strangers and examine their belongings.

These Indians belonged on the White Earth agency in Becker county, but were wont in the summertime to wander back to the old hunting grounds, and visit the graves of their relatives and former companions, buried on a ridge back of the village. Over most of these graves were constructed little wooden buildings, about the size and appearance of dog kennels. In each of these was a small opening in the gable, through which, once a year, the Indians came and put through food for the dead—delicacies which the Indians thought might not be found in the "happy hunting grounds" where the dead braves had gone.

McDonald claimed to be one hundred years old, and was always asserting it with an oath, as though he expected his statement to be doubted. In

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all probability he did not know his age, but thought the claim would add to his distinction. He was doubtless over eighty, very gray, but erect, and moved about like a man of forty. In a much earlier day, he had in some way possessed himself of an old silk hat, which must have antedated those in vogue during the Tippecanoe campaign in 1840. The shell was intact, but not a vestige of the nap remained. He spoke English with a broad Scotch accent, and was the most profane man that ever broke the commandments. If his Indian vocabulary was equal to his profane English one, he must have been the Bryan of his tribe.

The wind going down in the afternoon, the party started across the lake about four o'clock. They landed at the outlet at the west end of the lake and camped on the Indian mound on the south side of the river. There are, at that point, several of these mounds, extending south from the bank of the river a considerable distance.

The next morning the party got an early start, worked hard at the oars all day and landed in Fergus Falls a little after six o'clock P. M., having covered a distance, as they estimated, of seventy-five miles. The water was at a high stage, making passage down the rapids at different points in the stream easy. In passing the rapids the four oars were manned to give the boat an impetus sufficient for steering. The stream at the different rapids was full of large rocks or boulders, against which the water dashed, throwing spray many feet in the air. It was no boys' job to clear them all, but it was successfully done without accident.

At the place now called Phelps, where the Thomas mill stands, there was a dam being built across the stream. At that point the party had to make a portage, carrying their tent, blankets and utensils around the dam. A rope was hitched to the bateau and floated through the opening in the dam. Aside from this, no obstructions were met which prevented navigation with the party's boat.

The first few days after reaching home were spent in getting the chief engineer, Miller, into a friendly state of mind, and to prepare his report to the directors of the company. This being accomplished, a board meeting was called, and formal report of the preliminary survey duly made, accepted and placed on file.

Then came the momentous question of money. It was easy to draw, sign and publish articles of corporation, and fix the capital stock at half a million dollars. That amount was as easily written as one hundred thousand dollars. It was comparatively easy to beg and borrow an outfit for such preliminary survey of the river as was made. It took only a little jollying of the chief engineer to put him in mood for making a report of the "survey" that looked good on paper, but money was not so easily corralled.

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Congress—that was a word to conjure with. Means must be devised to reach that body and convince it of the great potential possibilities for navigation on the Red river of the North, only awaiting governmental encouragement by way of a liberal appropriation. Members of Congress were importuned, but failed to show much enthusiasm. They wanted to be backed in the matter by a legislative request, so, in 1875, a joint resolution was introduced and passed the Minnesota Legislature, which, following a convincing preamble, setting forth the feasibility of the project, read as follows:

"Resolved, that Congress is hereby requested to survey that portion of said river before described, to ascertain the feasibility and estimate the cost of improving said river for the ready transportation of articles of merchandise and produce."

This resolution was duly presented to Congress, then, as now, a slowly-moving aggregation of eminent statesmen. An engineer was sent out and made, probably, about as thorough an examination of the river as Chief Engineer Miller made on that famous preliminary survey trip a year or two prior in time. The government engineer reported adversely; at any rate, that portion of the river before named never found its way into any "pork barrel," without which its chances for development are about as tangible as an iridescent dream. The river is still here.

A DASH OF LOCAL COLOR.

In 1910 the city's power dam, situated about two miles up the river, collapsed and carried with it the power house, pumps and all machinery. This dam had been completed and in use about nine months at the time it gave way. It cost over fifty thousand dollars and well illustrated the thoroughness of municipal work. It lasted long enough for the contractor to get his money. He built according to plans, but said afterward that the happiest moment of his life was when he got his money, as he feared if the dam went out before that he would have trouble in collecting it. No unforeseen condition caused the wreck of the dam. The water in the river was at its usual stage; the season was dry, and the only cause of the accident was the incompetent plan of the dam, dishonesty of the contractor, and loose and inefficient oversight of construction. Its plan, construction and supervision was an eloquent epitome of the way business enterprises are performed by municipal agencies, composed too often of men unable to succeed in their own private affairs, but chosen as servants of the public to superintend and manage its concerns.

After a good deal of bickering, opposition, newspaper talk and discussion at various public meetings, the city council was practically forced

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to provide lights through a contract with the Otter Tail Power Company, from its plant at Dayton Hollow.

It is only fair to the company to say that it did not attempt to "hold up" the city under the contract it offered, but certain individuals contended that it would be making a profit on the sale of electric energy, and they bitterly opposed that. It was shown by the figures of disinterested experts, from the city's own books, that the price named in the contract was cheaper than the city had ever been able to supply the energy. The contract was finally made, and for two years thereafter the question of rebuilding the dam was constantly discussed.

Debt is sometimes a blessing. It was in this instance. The city had reached its limit for issuing bonds, and money to rebuild the dam could be raised in no other way. During this time Vernon A. Wright conceived the idea of cutting off a ten-mile bend in the river, and by a system of tunnels and canal conduct the water to a point below, and thus securing a seventy-foot fall, which would solve for all time the question of adequate water power for supplying Fergus Falls and surrounding towns with electric energy for lights and power.

The probable cost would be at least a quarter of a million dollars, but he and his associate, F. G. Barrows, were willing to assume the risk. They asked no financial aid from the city. All they desired was a contract for fifteen years for furnishing light and power to the city on the same terms as these provided in the existing contract. The interests of both the city and company were fully protected under the proposed franchise, drawn by the company's attorney in conjunction with the attorney of the city. This franchise to become valid, must be submitted to a vote of the city.

The city council refused to call an election for that purpose. Some of the aldermen were actuated by spite; some by ignorance and others by a desire of handling the money, when it could be raised, for rebuilding the dam.

More public meetings were called. More newspaper discussion was aroused, till finally, the council could resist public opinion no longer, and called the election.

The franchise carried by more than three to one; the project was completed within the time limited, and the company is now furnishing electric energy for over twenty cities and villages, without using one-half of its power capacity.

The following article, published in the *Fergus Falls Journal*, March 14, 1912, about two weeks before the election, illustrates as well as anything the state of affairs at the time, and gives a glimpse of certain Fergusonian

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peculiarities. It ought to be preserved for future reading. The local color is steadfast, and time cannot change it.

"WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH FERGUS?"

"I know not how the truth may be,
But tell the tale as 'twas told to me."

The city is situated in the midst of as fine a country as can be found in Minnesota. The soil is rich; pure water in lakes and rivers; timber in abundance; railroad facilities excellent, with the possibility of developing one of the greatest water powers of the state.

We are blessed with a system of schools recognized as the equal of any in the state. We have churches enough to accommodate all sects and convert all sinners. There have been no scandals of graft in the management of municipal affairs. The morals of the place, in many respects, are above most cities of equal size. The saloons are conducted in as lawful a manner as it seems possible to conduct them anywhere. The citizens are moral, industrious and intelligent. But, notwithstanding all these conditions and advantages, something has prevented the building of a successful city and has kept Fergus Falls in the village class.

To answer the question, What is the matter with Fergus? we have to go back and study of the history of its growth; make inquiry of the past and investigate the causes which have given it its present characteristics. The city has an individuality peculiar to itself, and one that has grown and developed with its years, just as a person's individuality is developed through his inherited qualities and his environment.

No matter how good the material, no winning football eleven can be produced without "team work." To start a load and keep it moving, the team drawing it must start together and both continue to pull in the same direction.

Let us keep these two examples in view for a little time while we refresh our minds on the history of Fergus. This will carry us for a beginning back into the early seventies. The promise of the child village is fulfilled in the man city. The peculiar traits thus early manifested have grown and kept pace with the years. The knockers of today are the legitimate descendants of the knockers of the seventies. "As the twig is bent, the tree's inclined."

In 1871 the only bridge in the village across the Red river was just below where the Red River Milling Company's mill now is. It consisted of stringers reaching from bank to bank, on which were laid poles and these poles covered with straw. Wright & Mendenhall's saw-mill was located on the south side of the river between the present concrete bridge and the Cable mill.

The business part of the town was then on Lincoln avenue between Court and Mill streets. Wright & Mendenhall commenced the construction of a bridge, at their own expense, across the river on Cascade street. Opposition to a bridge at the point was at once raised. The knockers claimed that its erection there was fatal to the business interests between Court and Mill streets; that it was being built with the ulterior design of moving the business center up stream and would result in the ruin of every interest between the two last named streets. Lawyers were consulted and suit to enjoin the obstruction of a public street by private parties was threatened. Knots of men gathered on the streets and in the shops, and the topic everywhere discussed was the new bridge and the ruined fortunes to follow its erection. Base motives were attributed to the builders, and personal feelings engendered that lasted as long as the participents lived.

This bridge fight gave the denizens a taste of blood and sharpened the appetite for future controversy. Nearly every one of the factional fights which followed thick and fast were as ridiculous as this one over the bridge and grew in intensity as time went on. I shall not try to name them all, but only present a few samples, characteristic of them.

The prayers of the pioneers were answered in 1879, when the old St. Paul & Pacific

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railroad pulled its first train into town in the month of November. The railroad bridge across the river was completed along about 5 o'clock in the afternoon when the first engine, with bell ringing and whistle blowing, pulled over it in the presence of the whole population gathered to witness the great event. Then and there was unity for a brief time. Fergus was made a division headquarters; shops and a roundhouse were built on the east side of the river; railroad men, with their families, made Fergus their home; conductors, engineers, firemen, brakemen, boilermakers and other mechanics lived, earned money and were paid their wages here. The payrolls amounted to several thousand dollars per month. The shops were here; the division headquarters were here, and here they must remain.

Secure in these advantages, Fergus was free to indulge its nagging spirit and obstruction policies. A railroad company is legitimate prey, always for people so inclined, and opportunities for a display of Fergus follies soon presented themselves.

The company had a large force of boilermakers, working for a wage of from four to five dollars per day. They organized for higher wages and struck to obtain the same. All Fergus was at once aroused and sided with the strikers. The railroad was, so they argued, crushing the life out of honest labor, and everyone favored "downing" the soulless corporation. The company brought in a carload of new men, ran the car into the roundhouse, and fed and protected them there. A delegation of the strikers waited upon the mayor to ascertain what attitude he would take if they, the strikers, made an assault on and drove the "scabs" out of town. The mayor informed the delegation that, while he stood for the right of men to strike, if so disposed, he also stood for the right of others to work at the job the strikers had abandoned; and further, that if there was sufficient police force in the city to protect the men who thus wanted to work, they would surely be protected. That declaration raised a storm of protest and abuse from the early "town builders," and the mayor shared with the railroad company the abuse of all those who knew so well how to run things.

Soon after this it was discovered that the roundhouse was a few feet over the line and on the land of a private owner. Here was another outrage on the part of the company. It was not only compelling its men to work at starvation wages, but was violating the sacred, private rights of our citizens. This could not be tolerated for a moment. Notice was promptly served on the company to move its roundhouse. This was the last straw. The railroad, for once, did what the people demanded. It moved its roundhouse, and with it went the shops, the men and their families, and the payroll as well.

To recount all the pullings, haulings, disagreements and bickerings over every proposed project and undertaking would constitute a detailed account of the whole history of Fergus. There is not a lot, block or street in the center of town that has not been the subject and scene of some factional fight, bloodless, it is true, but fatal to the public welfare. If the citizens were ever united and working together harmoniously for any one undertaking or enterprise for the good of the city, the writer has been unable to find any old resident who can recall it.

The fear that some one else is going to make something has always been, and now is, a nightmare that has found permanent pasturage in Fergus, and is as rampant today as it was in early times when knocking began.

During all the years past the people have been banking on something which they have not got, and that is a great water power. Notwithstanding the record shows that the rainfall last season was above the average, still the water in our river is gradually diminishing, and that to such an extent that the power to run our water station and the electric light plant has to be furnished a part of the time by steam. An expert hired and paid by the city reports that the rebuilding of the city dam could only furnish power enough for the present uses of the city, to say nothing of the increased demand sure to follow the city's growth.

A citizen of capacity and financial means has discovered that our water power can

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be trebled and made permanent by the expenditure of less than a quarter million dollars, and is willing to risk his own money to prove the truth of his discovery.

He offers to do this and supply the city with electric energy at a price cheaper than the city has ever been able to furnish it from any plant ever owned and operated by itself. This expert engineer, representing the city, reports that the plan is feasible, and the rate to be charged for energy less than the city can furnish it, but some one has discovered that the "roundhouse is trespassing on private property"; another fears that the originators of the plan will make a profit from the undertaking; a third opposes it because of a personal spite against some one connected with the enterprise, and thus the merry war goes on, and Fergus, true to her history and traditions, rushes to the fray, armed with the hammers that have done such valiant service for lo, these many years. One brave with feathers in his hair and war paint on his person, with hammer drawn, rushes into the fight and levels a telling blow when he declares that if the contract is ratified by the voters, in some way, he does not stop to explain how, the water and light commission will be prevented from spending some $3,000 in extending water mains the coming summer. He does not tell that if the contract is approved by the voters, more than $100,000 will be distributed right here. Then comes the big medicine man—that High Priest of Nonsense—with a string of legal propositions about as reasonable and reliable as a Munchausen tale, exhibiting a sheet of figures that read as though taken from a circus advertisement, telling what awaits the city just around the corner, if it fails to let Tom Wilson or Erick Nelson build an "everlasting" dam for less than fifty thousand dollars. The show was worth the money, and enough to cheer the departed spirits of former Fergus knockers if they are in communication with former mundane scenes. Oh, it's the greatest show on earth; a grand combination and colossal aggregation of star knockers, and, like the Passion Play, can be seen at only one place in the world, and that place is Fergus Falls. Is it any wonder that our town has been dubbed "Kicker's Haven" and "Mossback Hollow?"

Jealousy and prejudice obscure reason. At the late meeting in the city hall, during a two hours' hot-air blast, but one valid objection was presented against the pending contract, and that was that the price to be paid for electric energy is too high. The argument on that point was bald assertion, based on no fact or knowledge. The report of the city's expert, hired to tell us just that very thing, was ignored entirely. Anyone who sat through that ordeal seeing history repeating itself can answer pretty accurately, What is the matter with Fergus?

THE CAPTAINS OF INDUSTRY AT PLAY.

The waiting for business was like solitary confinement. At such times the vicious resort to crime, the devout to prayer, while the neither vicious nor devout seek amusement whereby pent-up energy finds vent.

The form of these amusements varied with the tastes and inclinations of the different individuals. Charlie Hurd neglected the hotel business to play the banjo. Burt, his partner and brother, found relaxation from care of guests that did not come, in watching Charlie play, and making appreciative side remarks on the skill of the virtuoso, as the dance went on as Charlie "picked the strings." At a lull between sets, Charlie was sure to be called on to sing his thimblerig song: "You can't five-dollars me."

Jim Chambers, merchant, Scotchman and bachelor, forgot want-of-business cares at these dances. To see him "cut the pidgeon wing" in a pair of carpet slippers, tied on with tow strings, was enough to make any-

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one forget all earthly cares. These dances were at night; in the day time other recreations were in vogue during this busy season of trying-to-forget. Nichols and Dearborn, the druggists, played checkers from early moon to dewy eve, and then some; but the great body of business (?) men and captains of industry devoted their energies to the strenuous game of croquet; all but Dave Zaiser. He stayed in his lonesome rathskeller, and sought consolation from the stein.

Dave weighed about two hundred and seventy-five pounds; an all-around German, broader than he was long, with a row of double chins clear down his stomach. At times he would look around his vacant shop and exclaim to himself: "Dees tam grasshoppers; dey drows me into bankruption yet, Vat?"

The Cowing and Chambers stores were on adjoining lots, set about one hundred feet back from Lincoln avenue, at the top of Austin's grade. The space between the stores and street made an ideal croquet ground. The hoppers had cleared off all vegetation, leaving the earth as clean as a tennis court. On this historic spot were played the continuous croquet games. The lone policeman—an "Italian from Cork"—was detailed to drive and keep the dogs off, and sweep back the grasshoppers. He was reasonably successful with the dogs, but the hoppers would break in. The players tied strings around their trouser's legs to keep them from climbing up on the inside. Jim Chambers had a double set of strings, one pair around his pants legs, the other to hold his carpet slippers in place.

When a champion game was on, Charlie Hurd encouraged the contestants with his banjo and song, "You can't five-dollar me."

Anthony Cowing, called "Fatty," understudy of his brother, George F., worked hard at the game and perspired. He was the bouquet of the bunch. He ran off with his wife's sister and was heard of no more. His dereliction was a scandal to the croqueters, but left them more room for play. George F. was a good sport, but had the asthma; his heavy breathing often caused a discord with Charlie's banjo, a disagreement of sounds that would not have been tolerated in later, symphonic days.

Slim Sims, too indolent to play, was wont to stalk out to the grounds and punctuate the game with sarcastic remarks on the players, their flukes and mishaps, with never a word of praise for a masterstroke.

Gus Gunderson, clerk in Sim's drug store and blind pig. he played, too. In a beauty contest, Gus would have been marked zero. It was said that he never looked in a glass but once, i. e., looking glass. That was enough to last him his life time. The grasshopper protectors at the end of his legs were the most harmonious part of his dress. The old simile, "bean-pole," described his form, but not his features. His nose was long and crooked

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in three directions, up, down and laterally; his mouth opened on a steep slant across his face and shed saliva at the lower outlet. His salivary glands were always on the job, and never stopped for meal time. But the cuss, Gus, could play croquet.

Chittenden was too dignified to indulge in anything so childish. He would stalk by the game, looking neither to the right or left, with a supercilious curl to his upper lip and wrinkle to his nose as though he were passing a tannery.

Austin did not play, but enjoyed looking on at times and telling the captains of industry how a town ought to be run. Sam Nichols was another who did not play, though he was a croquet fan. He used to bring a chair out to the grounds, sit down, throw one loose-jointed leg over the other and let it swing, while he told the admiring crowd how "Bill" (meaning United States Senator William Windom) asked him to come up here and "harmonize the conflicting elements." His efforts at "harmonizing" were about as effective as the war on grasshoppers.

Old Mr. Head would be there, with his ear trumpet hung to his neck, and put a strain on the vocal cords of every one with whom he opened up communications.

Uncle Vickery was a constant spectator, too old to play, but would stand around combing his gray whiskers with his stiff fingers and listen to the wrangle over the rules of the game. These discussions were the forerunners of the later day, free-silver, hot-air blasts, and just about as sensible.

The ladies did not play; reason—grasshoppers.

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CHAPTER XXXIII.

WHO'S WHO IN EARLY FERGUS.

By John W. Mason.

There is a rumor afloat that our "city fathers"—illustrious men, all—are contemplating the erection of a new city hall and establishing therein a "Hall of Fame", in which shall be admitted only the names of those who have served on the city council as mayors or aldermen. That would constitute a menagerie of notables whose names and fame are worthy of perpetuation; but the scope is too limited. Others there be who have wrought in humble walks, and who are entitled to the homage of an inquisitive posterity.

We have no word of disapproval to offer against this worthy and patriotic undertaking of our city fathers. We only wish to extend and enlarge the idea and establish herein a "Who's Who" for the less fortunate, but no less honorable individuals who have lived and wrought in the Otter Tail county metropolis.

"They also serve who only stand and wait".

The roster of fame is restricted to a very limited space. This will explain the omission of many names worthy of record in a list of notables among the proletariat. So we dive down into the "dark, unfathomed caves of ocean" and rescue a few, only, of the "gems," that their "rays" may scintillate and be seen of people living and people yet to come.

DOCTOR GOODALE.

The first pastor who regularly preached in the Presbyterian church was Doctor Goodale, a perfect type of the old-school gentleman. Loved by all who knew him, his greeting seemed a benediction. He was possessed of dry, delightful humor and a weakness for the chase. Every second Sunday after the morning service here, he used to drive out to Western and preach in the afternoon. On these occasions he would put his gun in the back of his buggy for Monday shooting on his way home. Some, wickedly disposed, said that he could not always resist the temptation for a shoot on the Sabbath, but no one really believed that. One time he forgot his Bible, and relating the fact to his good wife on his return, she remarked: "Well, doctor, I'm sure you did not forget your gun."

JAMES M. GRAY.

There was another character here in those days—James M. Gray—in many respects the antipodes of the doctor, but of as kindly a nature as ever warmed the breast of man. With all his good qualities he had his faults. What shall I say? Well, he never heard Doctor Magelson's paper on "Some-

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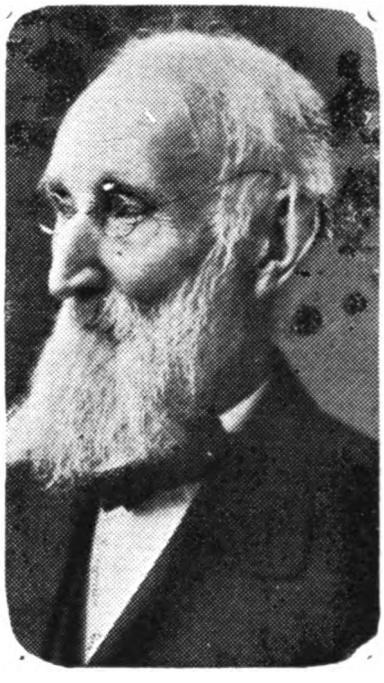
KNUD PEDERSON.

K. H. BRANVOLD.

HON. SAMUEL RIDER.



DAVIS BURBANK.

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thing About Drinks." Doctor Goodale was fond of going hunting with Gray, and at such times the doctor always took with him a bottle of clear cold tea. Gray always took a bottle of something that looked like tea, but was not. One time after driving out to the hunting ground, while unloading and arranging the sportsman's paraphernalia, these two bottles got placed side by side. The doctor, in his haste to get away for game, picked up the wrong bottle and put it under his arm and started off. Gray discovered the error before many steps were taken and hailed the doctor, telling him of the mistake. "Yes, yes," said the doctor, "I'll exchange. My bottle would be better for you, but I don't think yours would be better for me." Poor Gray, he has gone the road all must go, and I know of no character more deserving of the broad mantle of charity. There was that in him which often brings to the mind a verse of the poem by John Hay, entitled "Jim Bludsoe:"

"At the last great day of judgment,
I'd take my chances with Jim,
Long side o' some pious gentleman
Who wouldn't shook hands with him."

It is at such graves that we are constrained to stop and consider. Before we can judge aright, we must know aright. The book of no man's life is opened at all its pages. Some are sealed and their contents only known to his Maker. May it not have been this which led to the injunction of Christ: "Judge not that ye be not judged?"

"Who knows the heart? 'Tis He alone
Decidedly can try us;
He knows each chord—its various tone,
Each spring—its various bias;
Then at the balance let's be mute,
We never can adjust it;
What's done we partly may compute,
But know not what's resisted."

The struggle of our pioneers for material wealth and municipal growth had its pathetic side, along with the humorous and sometimes grotesque. The struggle of existence is a solemn thing at all times. Men came with high hopes and ambitions for success and happiness; but the harvest of many was only failure and disappointment. The reality was not like the dream, and they moved on with the great tide ever setting towards the western shore. They moved out of our midst and life—maybe to success, maybe to greater disappointments, maybe to death—we cannot tell; but the spirit that prompted the unrest never dies. It has been marching on since before Columbus supplicated at the foot of thrones for aid to embark on an unknown sea in search

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of an unknown world. It burned in the breasts of the Pilgrims as they stepped on Plymouth Rock to confront, in a strange land, savage beasts and still more savage men. It possessed the courtier Cortez when he renounced loyalty to Velasquez, burned his ships behind him and pressed forward into the interior for the conquest and plunder of a civilization, better in some respects, than his own. It was the moving power of the treasure seekers, who, stopped by the sea at Golden Gate, sought and found in the bowels of Earth that for which man will barter ease, honor and the hope of salvation itself. That spirit has encompassed and subdued this whole continent. It has planted the habitations of civilization and the concomitants of steam, electricity, the printing press, the school house and the church from the Atlantic to the Pacific, and has swept, forever, from the American continent the last vestige of a frontier.

LEVI SARTWELL, CAPTAIN OF INDUSTRY.

By right of early settlement and great achievement in the industrial world, the name of Levi Sartwell deservedly stands high in the column of "Who's Who".

The First Presbyterian church was built on the hill on Whitford street across from the Henry G. Page residence. The substantial methods of constructing foundations under buildings, now adopted by architects and contractors, were not then observed. There was an "alleged" stone footing under this old temple, but the erosion by water, frost, and time in a very short period reduced it to such a state of ruin that one could throw a cat through it without injury to the cat or much damage to the wall.

A pair of enterprising and inquisitive pole-cats, in search of a habitation and a home, discovered what they were looking for and moved in under the church. They had not occupied their new domicile long before they began to make themselves felt, greatly to the discomfort of the occupants of the first floor. It was but a short time before plenary proof was forthcoming that the family below was increasing in number.

Many were the schemes discussed for ejecting the trespassing tenants. No one seemed anxious to serve the writ, and it was finally agreed that the most effective and safe method would be to stop the holes in the wall at night while the occupants were out on their noctural search for air and food. This plan was tried, but failed, and exercises in the church became less and less inviting as time went on. It was difficult to maintain a devout state of mind in such an atmosphere, and the congregations began to thin out and decrease as the increase went on below. A stranger could pick out the homes of the communicants of the church by the amount and character of the clothing airing on the lines.

Something must be done; vigorous measures were demanded and, as a

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last resort, the deacons called in Levi, the janitor. He proposed an offensive campaign, and believed that the "undesirables" could be gotten out of the "trenches" by trapping. The deacons went into executive session to consider Levi's plans, and their consultation resulted in an offer of one dollar for every skunk caught, little or big.

Well, Levi caught pole-cats, all right, and to such an extent that the Sunday morning offering soon became insufficient to pay the bounty earned each week. It was finally discovered, through an efficient spy system, that Levi, instead of exterminating the Mephitis, was actually propagating them. His depletion by trapping was just about equal to the natural increase. He was court-martialed and dishonorably discharged, but not till he had commandeered the whole church exchequer. His accumulations enabled him to retire from active business for several months, which gave him time to air out in seclusion.

VICTOR LANDQUIST.

Victor Landquist was the big Swede who came here with Jacob Austin as clerk in the latter's hardware store, where rat skins were bought and stoves sold in the winter seasons. Victor's fame rests, principally, on the fact that he started the first brick-yard and made the first bricks in Otter Tail county. This was away back in 1872. For miles around the city of Fergus Falls, a clay subsoil is found beneath the black loan. This clay, to the novice, seems admirably adapted for making brick.

Victor, being an enterprising young Swede, selected a tract of land lying about one mile north of the village and started his brick-yard. In due time he had the kiln completed and kindled the fires for burning. The product was pronounced excellent. The brick were of a light cream color, and when struck together rang like a piece of steel. Soon after the kiln was uncovered, a heavy rain came on, and after it cleared up, Victor went to his brick kiln and found it a great mass of crumbled clay.

In nearly all of the clay in this part of the country is found small lime stone, varying in size from a grain of wheat to a pea. One unfamiliar with brick making would overlook this condition of the clay. That was what caused Victor's failure. After these particles of lime are subjected to fire and then become wet they "slacken" and destroy the brick. Since that time very limited beds of clay have been found here free from lime. These have been worked only to a slight extent, on account of the small quantity discovered, hence our brick industry has been small. Others have profited by Victor's experience, but it was a "dear school" for him.

Victor was a valiant soldier in the "rat war". He was about six feet four inches tall, well proportioned, muscular and an athlete. It was a sight to see him charge a pack of rat-skin buyers surrounding a granger's sleigh,

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clean out the crowd and bear the pelts in triumph to the store of the "Rat King." His Titanic exploits will long be remembered as a part of the early history of Fergus.

WILD BILL.

Big Bill Wilson was a b-a-d man. He admitted the fact, and his admirers, who all stood in awe of him, believed it. He was not only b-a-d, but he looked it. Large, well built, bearded, furrowed and cross-eyed, with a voice that sounded as though it came from his boots, he seemed exactly the character he proclaimed himself. Hero worship is more intense on the frontier than anywhere else, and the demigod there who received most admiration is the physical bully believed to be b-a-d. The boys looked up to Bill as their ideal hero who could "lick his weight in wild cats," while the grown-ups stood in awe for the same reason.

Just how Bill acquired his enviable reputation is hard to explain. He was not quarrelsome; was never seen in a fight or in a mood to provoke a "rough house." True, he was wont to tell, in rather an indifferent way, of feats of prowess, most blood-curdling affrays against great odds, but this he did not so much by open boasting as through some subtle influence emanating from his personality when recounting adventures. I have since come to believe that his huge bulk, deep voice and cross eyes were responsible for the awe he inspired.

The young fellows were particular admirers of Bill; courted and deferred to him on all occasions, and, at times, inclined to be aggressive when Bill was around and they felt that he was on their side. Should such aggressiveness be resented, as was sometimes the case, one glance from Bill's ugly eye was sufficient to quell any outbreak. Metaphorically speaking, Bill was adorned from head to foot with scalps from his many victims. He received most modestly all adoration bestowed upon him, and was never known to contradict any of the current stories of his prowess and blood-curdling exploits.

He used to work in the pineries in winter, come down with the drive in the spring and "rest" in town till time to go to the woods in the fall. On one occasion when a school meeting was to be held, feeling ran high and a hot time was expected. One faction, by all odds the largest, got Bill on their side. If trouble came, he was a great asset, and the young fellows hoped there would be a scrap. The meeting took place in a vacant store building, and all voters were out. Boys too young to vote came also, as it was in the air that Bill would get into action before it was over.

Among the opposition was a lawyer, Newton H. Chittenden, afterwards superintendent of schools. He was nearly as big as Bill, but in all other ways his antipodes. He had served as lieutenant in the army in a Wisconsin regiment. Cold, reserved and self-possessed, he was not popular—quite the reverse.

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Physically, he was without an equal in town, outside of Bill. Of course, Bill was more than a match for anybody.

Well, as was anticipated, things got warm at the meeting. Chittenden claimed that some had voted oftener than the law allowed and entered a vigorous protest. Now or never was the time to bring out Bill. The outrageous accusations by Chittenden must not go unrebuked. The boys insisted that Bill must resent it. He worked his way slowly through the crowd, most of whom were cheering him on, and demanded of Chittenden a retraction of his vile slander. Chittenden, instead of retracting repeated the charge, when Bill gave him a slight shove. At that Chittenden grabbed him by the shoulder, turned him around, then took him by the collar and seat of the pants, rushed him through the crowd to the door and released him with a kick that sent Bill into the middle of the street. The riot was put down, but not by Bill. The next morning showed a decrease in our population. Bill was gone, and the places that formerly knew him, knew him no more.

BERT MELVILLE.

Bert Melville was the first lawyer to locate in Fergus Falls, away back in the spring of 1871. He came from no one knows where, and when he left, went to parts equally unknown. He was an undersized man, of good form and feature, bright mind, congenial and, but for one thing, might have made a success of life. His taste and habits of life were too convivial for even the frontier of those early days, and that is saying a great deal. He knew more than the average adventurer of the far West at that time, which showed that at an earlier period he had devoted some attention to books. At the date in question his eyesight was so effected by his habits that he could read only with great difficulty. His mind was receptive and his memory good; being thus fortunately endowed, he got most of his knowledge of the law in a case by discussing it with others. He was adroit in this method of acquiring knowledge, shaping the discussion along the lines on which he wished information, and so directing it that before he was through he knew all that the one he was consulting knew, and had heard read to him decisions he was in search of, but unable to find without such aid. He was an excellent talker and, with the information thus picked up, would go into court and make a legal argument on the law and facts in the case delightful to listen to. In this way he gained a reputation for legal knowledge which his real merits did not deserve, but which, nevertheless, made him interesting and spectacular.

In his dress he was not prepossessing. One with his habits could hardly be that, but his Sunday costume was always neat and unique. On that day he would don a pair of white pique trousers, a white vest of the same material, white stockings and low slippers, but coatless. He would generally start off

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in that rig and spend the day at Elizabeth, where beer was plenty, and other drinks of a stronger nature if desired.

So caparisoned, he started out one Sunday for his usual resort. That afternoon there came through Fergus Falls a party of three or four men from Alexandria on their way through the county to Detroit, in Becker county to the north. They drove a team hitched to an old army ambulance, which was commodious enough to hold the party, a couple cases of beer and a keg of whiskey. These necessary supplies were sufficient for a long outing for the party as originally made up.

They were all in a joyous and sociable mood while in Fergus Falls, and it may be assumed that it so continued until they reached Elizabeth. There they found Melville, who was likewise joyous. The day was perfect. Bert was sociable, companionable and looked neat, so he was invited to join the party and accompany it to Detroit. Trust Bert for not refusing an opportunity of that sort, when acquainted with the supplies contained in the ambulance.

The weather changed; rain came on and they did not reach Detroit for two days. During all that time Bert camped close to the keg, and with such assiduity that when they got to their destination he had outworn his welcome. There he was told that if he wished to go to Fergus Falls, he would have to walk; that they had had all of his company they desired, and did not propose to run the risk of a drought by keeping him any longer.

Well, Bert was fifty miles from home, and in his Sunday suit, already sadly demoralized by the rain. His slippers and suit were illy adapted for a fifty-mile tramp through the mud, but the effort had to be made—and he started for home. His first day's *trek* brought him to Pelican lake, twelve miles from Detroit, where he arrived footsore, but sober. He stayed all night with a farmer by the name of Peabody, somewhat convivial like himself. "A fellow feeling makes us wondrous kind," so Peabody loaned Melville a big mule and a buckboard to convey him back to Fergus Falls. Friends were on the lookout for him, being at a loss to know the cause of his long absence.

A few of them, along toward night, gathered in front of Sim's drug store, over which Bert had his office. As they stood gazing westward beyond the hill, then in the center of town on Lincoln avenue, they saw first the flop, flop of the mule's ears above the horizon, then came the head, neck, body, and finally the buckboard in which sat Melville, covered with mud from foot to head, with not a show of white about that erstwhile immaculate Sunday suit.

After sleeping about two days, Bert came forth and declared that he had enough of Alexandria hospitality.

In an election contest he was accused of illegal voting under an assumed name, when, like the Arab, he "quietly stole away," and was never heard of more. Drink made a wreck of his bright mind and moral sense. When in

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his sober moments, he was one of the most entertaining of men. He would sit the evening through, recounting his experiences, most of which, no doubt, were imaginary, but a vivid imagination is what adorns a tale and makes it worth the telling, and Bert had all the qualifications of the excellent raconteur.

JIM SPENDLOVE.

Spendlove, commonly called Jim, was an H-englishman, long, lank and lean. He belonged to the humbler walks of life and was a carpenter by trade, which made him useful in secular affairs, while his ability to play the flute admitted him into social and religious circles. He played flute to George Nichols' fiddle in the choir on Sunday, and on Saturday nights, after choir meetings, accompanied George's fiddle for the regular dance which always followed the practice of the sacred hymns.

Jim was a member of the church, in good and regular standing, but liable to succumb occasionally to temptation somewhat common to life on the frontier. His great length made a drink much more enjoyable to him than to a man of ordinary height. The taste in transit was longer and the after-effects more lasting.

Jim's falls from perpendicular were not of very frequent occurence, but quite noticeable when they did take place. One of them happened at a choir meeting on a Saturday night. The lapse in his rectitude was not so fatal to the choir pratice, but was very distressing at the post exercises. The dancers in the first quadrille were in position; the deacon at the head of the set, with the soprano for a partner; the "caller's" voice rang out the "change;" Nichols' fiddle struck up the tune, but, O goddess of Terpsichore! the scandalous notes of Jim's flute murdered harmony, stopped the dance when some irreverent "cuss" cried out: "Jim, go wet your flute." Jim answered: "Hi did that a couple of times before hi came hup."

Jim, becoming matrimonially inclined, was paying his addresses to two different girls. One, Mary, was very comely and good to look at, but didn't know much. The other, Liza, was getting on in years, extremely plain, but well educated and an accomplished singer. Jim felt sure that he could have his choice, but hesitated long in making it. Finally, the thought of Liza's voice and the cozy evenings at home when he could accompany it with his flute won the day and fixed his choice on Liza.

The first morning after the wedding, Jim awoke and looked over at Liza. Liza was lying on her back; mouth open; false teeth removed, and her frontal wig hanging on the back of a chair. After gazing on this picture for a moment, Jim groaned: "Oh, sing, Liza, sing; for heaven's sake, sing."

JACOB AUSTIN.

The late Jacob Austin, who died in June, 1914, in the state of Washington, at the advanced age of eighty-five, was for about a quarter of a century

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one of the most prominent citizens of Fergus Falls and no history of the city would be complete without recounting some of his peculiar traits. It is safe to say that as a private citizen and as a public official he stamped his life on the city in such a way as to show that he was a man of extremely varied attainments.

Mr. Austin moved here from Alexandria in the summer of 1871 and entered the hardware business in a building he erected that year, on the lot now occupied by the Desky building. The firm of Couse & Hammer were his competitors and located just across Lincoln avenue. Mr. Austin could not see many virtues in a competitor. In the winter season he annexed to the hardware business the fur trade, buying mink, fox, skunk and rat skins—mostly rats. In this line he had for competitors nearly every merchant in town and the "rat war" constituted one of the interesting bits of local history. That "war" was described some years ago in an address before the Century Club of Fergus Falls and published in the *Journal*. All of these different industries were side lines to the main and over-shadowing activities of Jake. Everbody called him Jake. Politics, local, state and national, were his prime object in life.

Austin was never "astride of the fence." No one was ever in doubt about which side he was on. If he changed frequently, it was a decided change, with no lingering, half way between two positions. He was never in doubt about anything. With him there were no two sides to any question, and he was always on the right side.

Such a character could not be otherwise than positive, and being thus to a marked degree, it followed as "night the day" that he had staunch friends and bitter enemies.

Fergus Falls has always been a town of factions. Some have been called one thing and some another, but there was never but one "Austin faction." That kept its identity, individuality and name through all the varied vicissitudes of local wars, until the sachem left the Fergus reservation and moved to the Pacific coast. Rumor tells us that it was not so pacific shortly after Jake got there. We are unable to record anything definite as to this, but the rumors are not difficult of belief.

The purpose of a sketch of this kind should be to give some insight to the character described. All the good and all the bad sides of a so-many-sided individual cannot be set down within a limited space. We are no Boswell, to record minutely the likes, dislikes, opinions, sayings, ambitions, motives, triumphs and disappointments of the character under consideration. A few of the things he did must serve to convey an idea of the man, with no attempt at a detailed account of those things which so impressed his individuality upon the community; the effect of which is felt to this day, and may be

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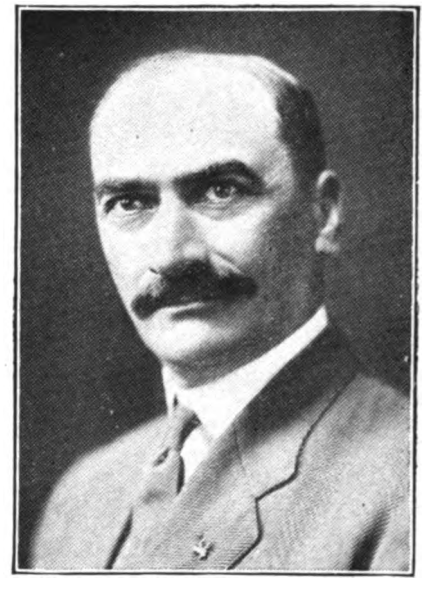
CLIFFORD L. HILTON.

JOHN W. MASON.

HON. E. E. CORLISS.



ANTON THOMPSON.

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for years to come. Such an account necessarily introduces other personalities, but they are used only as sidelights to the main one.

Mr. Austin was mayor of the city twice at least. The first time back in 1881, I think, and one term some years later. As may be imagined, he was never elected unanimously. It was a scrap royal from the moment he announced his candidacy. His last contest was a particularly bitter one. Mr. Jim Brown was his opponent.

At that time there was another "character" here—Sam Diamond by name. No one thought him a "first-water diamond." He was a policeman and largely used to collect bad debts. He had gained a most unsavory reputation through his harsh and bulldozing methods of extracting money from indignant debtors. Probably no man who ever lived in Fergus Falls had the distinction of being so universally despised as Sam. The mayoralty contest between Austin and Brown was a hot one from the start. Much, it was conceded, depended on the fourth ward, where Brown lived. Then as now, it was noted for its moral ideals. The Austin supporters greatly feared that Jim would "strike below the belt," and that it would be too late to call a "foul" after the vote was once cast. Jake managed his own campaign and made a coup in the fourth ward which not only won his election, but demonstrated his strategetic resources at the same time. The night before the election Austin sent for Sam. Sam was an Austin man, but that was to be changed. Jake supplied him with a great abundance of Brown tickets—this was before the time of the Australian ballot—and promised to give him ten dollars, to take the tickets, go into the fourth ward and work all day for Brown, telling the voters that if Austin was elected mayor, he was to appoint him (Sam) as chief of police.

It worked as the master mind had foreseen. The fourth ward went strong for Jake, but on the final canvass by the council there were found to be what was claimed two defective ballots. These ballots as I recollect had "Austin" on them without the initial "J" or the name "Jacob." The Brown side claimed that those two ballots should not be counted, which would give their candidate a majority of one. On the other hand, if they were counted for Austin it would give him a majority of one. The council postponed the canvass until the next day. They wanted time to decide the momentious question.

At that time Bert Rawson was city attorney. A description of that official might be interesting, but I resist the temptation to go into that. He was a Brown adherent in this contest. Early the next morning, before the canvassing board met, Jake and one C. F. Clark came to my office. Both were extremely anxious that Jake should be "counted in." Clark, like Artemus Ward, was willing to sacrifice all his wife's relations to accomplish the end

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desired, but he was not so constituted that he was willing to part with any cash for the end in view.

When they came in Jake said: "I am elected and want to be so declared. Is there any way that that can be done?" I answered: "Yes, there is a way, but it will take some money to do it." At the sound of "money" Clark bolted for the door. Jake looked disgusted, but he was made of different stuff. "How can it be done, and how much do you want," he asked. I told him that personally, I wanted nothing, but that the thing for him to do was to "see" the city attorney. That ended the consultation, and he left as suddenly as had Clark, but wearing a smile instead of a frown. The canvassing board met and, under the advice of the city attorney, counted the two ballots for Jake and he was declared elected mayor. He afterwards told me how he changed the city attorney's opinion, but that is no part of this sketch.

Jake was militant within every shade of meaning of that word, but always showed great discrimination in the selection of those to attack. At a legislative district convention in 1873 he knocked down Louis Stevenson, of Detroit; later he paid ten dollars fine for hitting Hon. Soren Listoe. At another time he slapped Haldor E. Boen. This was before the latter became Honorable, and then, on another occasion he hit old John Zaiser. This caused some criticism of Jake, as Zaiser was old and decrepid. The local poet, an anti-Austin genius, unburdened himself as follows:

"Let dogs delight to bark and bite,
  For God hath made them so;
Let bears and lions growl and fight
  For 'tis their nature to.
But, Jacob, you should never let
  Your angry passions rise;
Your little hands were never made
  To scratch John Zaiser's eyes."

John's injuries were not so serious that they had to be "treated" in court.

Like most positive characters, Jake made a good witness. His only fault in this capacity was a slight excess of partiality for the side that retained him. A single instance will illustrate this.

In 1879 when the St. Paul & Pacific railroad—now Great Northern railway—was building through the city, it cut off a corner of a twenty-acre tract of land belonging to K. O. Harris. The amount of damages awarded Mr. Harris by the commission was not satisfactory to him, so he appealed from the award and the case came on for trial in the district court.

The writer was attorney for Harris, and the railroad was represented

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by Hon. Knute Nelson. Jake was witness for Harris. His knowledge of values was accurate; his testimony direct and positive. After helping Harris all he could, he was turned over to the defense for cross-examination. The record ran like this:

"Cross-examination by Mr. Nelson:

"Q. 'Mr. Austin, you say that the land in question, without the railroad running across this corner, is worth $100 per acre?'

"A. 'Yes, sir.'

"Q. 'What is it worth an acre with the railroad running across it as now located?'

"A. 'Not a d—d cent sir.'"

Though not what may be termed a religious man, he took a lively interest in church matters, particularly when there was a denominational fight on, and there generally was. In those religious (?) wars, Jake was a volunteer. He never waited to be drafted. At the first scent of a scrap, he was out with war-paint and feathers, the chief of his band by common consent. As a leader he could out-Pankhurst Mrs. Pankhurst. She, I believe, is rather willowy and conciliatory in manner—a pent-up volcano, resisting eruption. Jake was a volcano in full eruption, belching forth fire, smoke, ashes and destruction; not fighting for "civil rights," but religious liberty. He was an unscorched martyr, with all the vituperative powers of a Jeremiah. There was no federation spirit in Jake.

Space, and not lack of material, admonishes me to draw this to its close. Let no one think from the above characteristics that Jacob Austin was a man devoid of good and commendable traits. The incidents related are but rugged points of land extending out into a sea of generous impulses and moral worth. He was a public-spirited man, progressive in everything he conceived to be for the public welfare, though he wanted such changes to be along lines marked out by himself. He was a generous man without ostentation. No one in distress ever appealed to him in vain. If a charitable act were needed, then he never stopped to consider whether the recipient was friend or foe, and the latter often received his aid without ever knowing the source from whence it came. *Requiescat in pace.*

CAPT. H. S. COLE.

Captain Cole, an early pioneer, won his title in a regiment of Maine cavalry in the Civil War. When first known in Otter Tail county, in the early seventies, he was a traveling salesman for the John C. Oswald wholesale liquor house of Minneapolis. He had certain mental and physical characteristics very important to success in many callings. He was large, portly, with piercing black eyes; silent, mysterious, and with an air of wisdom so profound that the god-like Daniel himself could not have surpassed. No

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man could be as wise as he looked. None could excel him in the use he could make of bits of gossip, incidental remarks dropped in his hearing anent business, social status or politics; and by a look, word, and silence, even, he could convey the impression of profound and unfathomable information too important and valuable for revelation. His manner of assenting to or dissenting from a proposition conveyed an impression of his intimate acquaintance with the subject, and all the while he was mentally filing away casual and incidental statements for future use. These qualities were of great service to him in his work as a lobbyist, a calling to which he devoted his time and talents every two years while the Minnesota Legislature was in session.

After quitting the employment of John C. Oswald, he came to Fergus Falls and went into the farm machinery business. In this he was very successful, and finally bought a large farm on the south side of Horseshoe lake, which he made a model, but his great triumphs and title to fame rest on his record as lobbyist.

For years, just prior to the sessions of the Legislature, he would go to St. Paul and take a suite of rooms on the first floor of the old Merchants' Hotel, which was the political headquarters of the state for years. These rooms, always the same, became historic. His personality inspired confidence, and no corporation with a scheme to work through the Legislature, or to be defeated there, but availed itself of the Captain's services. He was the general disbursing agent of every interest having a scheme to come before the solons of the state. Money without limit was entrusted to his keeping when occasion arose for placing it "where it would do the most good," and it ought to be stated here that no claim of dishonesty or breach of trust was ever made against him. This cannot be said of some of the satellites he made use of in his operations.

A Democrat in politics, but non-partisan in his manipulation of legislators, he would corrupt a Republican or Populist with as much satisfaction and impartiality as a Democrat. All was grist that came to his mill. A resolution of the Legislature excluding lobbyists from the floor of the Senate and House did not affect Cole; he was never seen on either floor. It was not necessary. His room at the Merchants' was the most popular resort in the city, and the law makers much preferred to gain "information" there than at the capitol.

His acquaintance was extensive. Before the Legislature convened he had the history of every member, and his "Black List" showed just who was susceptible to influence and how reached; whether by cold cash, political favor, social attention or otherwise. He was resourceful and adroit. In all investigations of bribery he was never involved or his name mentioned,

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but with all his shrewdness there was one man in whom he was partially fooled.

This man, Rellim Trebor, was a sort of henchman for Cole. The leader in any great enterprise is obliged to rely on subordinates for the execution of details. This is as true with captains of industry as with generals of an army. Trebor had many qualifications desirable in a subordinate. He was deferential to his chief; had a nose for news; could insinuate himself into the good graces of a certain class of people who had to be considered in legislative undertakings. He was competent in clerical work, but, notwithstanding all these qualifications, there was something in his general make-up which barred him from the full confidence of his chief. Cole let him into the secrets of any particular undertaking just so far as was necessary and no farther. For this reason he was not allowed to handle any of the "slush funds." His pickings were doled out by the Vestibula Rex in such amounts from time to time as deemed prudent by His Majesty.

But important occasions will sometimes arise when subordinates must be trusted beyond the usual wont. In such emergencies the chief is not to be held responsible for failure of the subordinate if he has done the best possible in making the selection.

Such an occasion arose away back in the eighties, when a bill was pending in the Legislature to forfeit a certain land grant of one of the railroads of the state. This land grant was valuable, and the roads interested were bent on the defeat of the proposed bill, regardless of cost. Human vultures flocked to the capital from all parts of the state, there to watch for such share of the "pickings" as might drop into their craws. Many were enabled to tide over a hard winter by the exchange of influence (?) for railroad receipts. King Cole's rooms at the Merchants' was the great soup house where the hungry clamored for gruel. Cole was manager and custodian of the funds. The night before the final vote on the bill, he had in a large safe in his rooms, it is said, most of the available currency of the banks of the city, and this safe was guarded by four plain-clothes men, detailed from the police force for that purpose.

In this emergency Cole was obliged to rely on some one for aid and, selecting Trebor as one of the "trustees," gave into his keeping the sum of five thousand dollars. It was a small amount under the circumstances, but all that Cole would consent to risk with that depositary; but small as it was, it looked big to Trebor. It was far and away beyond any sum theretofore entrusted to his keeping, and the lure of riches led to his fall.

The big debauch was about to close. Tomorrow would end the carnival of corruption; the harvest would be garnered. Trebor realized the

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situation and determined to reverse the old adage and make hay before sun-up. The next morning he was missing—likewise his wife. The police force was called into requisition. Search disclosed the fact that Trebor and his wife had purchased tickets by early trains for a Southern city; the wife going by one route on the Wisconsin side of the Mississippi river, while Trebor had taken a train on the Minnesota side.

A telegram led to the apprehension of Trebor before he reached La Crosse, and he was brought back to St. Paul. Before parting on their Southern flight, Trebor had given his wife two thousand five hundred dollars of the five thousand dollars, and retained two thousand five hundred dollars himself. This he restored to the eleemosynary fund from which it was abstracted, when he was released. Certain delicate circumstances connected with the accumulation of this fund made the losers very considerate, and no attempt was made to punish Trebor, or to recover the two thousand five hundred dollars which went down on the Wisconsin side of the river. The parties have all long since gone to their reward, and each contributed to the political history of our fair state.

SAM H. NICHOLS.

Sam H. Nichols, who died on April 5, 1913, in Everett, Washington, was one of the pioneers of Fergus Falls, and intimately connected with events that made early Fergus famous as a political center. He was eighty-three years of age at the time of his death.

In 1871, when George Head settled at this place, Mr. Nichols was a clerk in the United States land office at Alexandria. He came here soon after Mr. Head, and there was talk of his going into the banking business with Head. Head was loaning money at the rate of five per cent. a month, and the business seemed attractive. The location selected for the proposed bank was the site at the foot of the hill on Lincoln avenue now occupied by the new Fergus Falls National Bank. For some reason (possibly the low rate of interest) the project fell through and nothing was done further than the delivery of a load or two of lumber for the bank building.

Mr. Nichols was chief clerk of the House of Representatives from 1872 to 1876, inclusive. In the latter year he became clerk of the supreme court. He was a man of great clerical ability; wrote a splendid hand, and that so rapidly that he could report a speech in long hand much more fully than many stenographers can do it in shorthand.

Sam, as he was known and called far and wide, was a natural politician and took to its schemes as a babe to its natural nourishment. He had a personal acquaintance with every public man of the state and, in speaking of them, always called them by their first name; Governor Horace Austin was "Horace," William S. King was "Bill," Cushman K. Davis was "Cush."

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Senator Ramsey was "Aleck," and William Windom was "Bill." He could look volumes of information, but gave out only so much—and this by hints and innuendoes—as served to leave in the minds of his hearers a firm belief that he knew wonders if he chose to impart them. He belonged to what was called the Austin faction, but maintained reasonably friendly relations with the opposition. On one occasion, surrounded by a group of his admirers and speaking of the disturbed political conditions of Fergus Falls, he said: "Bill Windom wanted me to come up here and harmonize the elements." His success in his mission was not altogether what he wished it, and some irreverent dubbed him "Ole Harmony."

In 1874, a young lawyer by the name of Charles Norgaard was nominated on the Republican ticket for register of deeds. He was an outspoken opponent of the "Austin ring," as it was called by those who belonged to the "Wright ring." His nomination was very distasteful to the Austin faction and his defeat was "devoutedly to be wished." The opposition met in solemn conclave, where it was decided to preserve the liberties of the people by putting Sam in the field and running him as an independent candidate. Both factions were Republican, but honor was more sacred than party, and revenge to be preferred to either. Here was the germ which in late years developed into the Bull Moose party.

Nichols was counted in by a very close majority and Norgaard's friends always claimed that it was fraudulently done, and that the fraud was in the town of Aurdal, the home of Ole Jorgens, who was county auditor.

Some amusing things happened in that campaign too. A man by the name of Springen, a farm machine dealer, had a homestead in the town of Aastad. He was supposed to be for Nichols, and possessed of great influence in the town where his homestead was located. On the morning of election, Sam equipped him with team, tickets, and so forth, and sent him to Aastad to vote and induce others to do the same, for him—Sam. He returned that night and duly reported at Nichols' headquarters. When asked how the election went, he said: "Well, it's hard to tell. I know Nichols got one vote;" but when the returns came in and were counted, behold, Sam didn't get even one vote in that town. Some one suggested that evidently Springen went down and "harmonized the elements." Springen was the man for whom Springen avenue was named.

In 1876 Mr. Nichols was elected clerk of the supreme court, and held the position for ten years. In 1886 he was a candidate for re-election, but a combination of circumstances made his nomination a political impossibility. Though actually a resident of St. Paul during all the years he was clerk of the Supreme court, he always claimed Fergus Falls as his home, and was credited to Otter Tail county every time he ran for office. At the Repub-

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lican state convention in 1886, Moses E. Clapp, who then resided here, was a candidate for attorney-general and received the nomination. This made it inexpedient to put another man on the ticket from Otter Tail county, and Nichols had to give way to J. D. Jones, of Todd county. Every lawyer who has practiced in the supreme court will concede that Mr. Nichols was one of the most capable and obliging officials who ever held that position.

Sam had his peculiarities, as most everyone else has. These are the things which make a character interesting. Doubtless teh Lord made men different that the world might not be too monotonous, and has been most generous in conferring diversity on the denizens of fair Fergus. If Fergus Falls had its Boswell to record the characteristics, good and peculiar qualities of its inhabitants for the last forty years, he could do for the city what Doctor Johnson's Boswell did for him—make its fame eternal.

Mr. Nichols left the state not long after his defeat for renomination, going to Everett, Washington, where he became secretary of state in 1901 and was serving his third term when he resigned in 1909. He was often mentioned as a candidate for governor of that commonwealth. He was a good citizen, and an honorable man, and justly entitled to the respect in which he was held by the multitude of people who knew him.

FRANK HOSKINS.

An Echo From Populism.

Frank Hoskins made trouble enough in Otter Tail county to entitle him to a place in this history. He was a Populist, a socialist, a free silverite, and anything else that diverged from a common sense attitude on all public questions.

During the panic of 1893 he was editor of the *Henning Advocate,* which gave a scope for his pernicious activities equal to the circulation of that unsavory sheet. He believed that thrift meant theft, and that if a man succeeded in keeping out of the poor house, he ought to be in the state's prison.

The bankers of that period will never forget the effect of Secretary of the Treasury Carlisle's statement that he expected that silver certificates and greenbacks would have to be redeemed in silver. That statement meant ruin to the banks, life and fire insurance companies and other great interests of the country.

President Cleveland counteracted the statement in so far as he was able, by declaring that, rather than resort to the redemption proposed, the government would issue its bonds to maintain the gold standard, and calling an extraordinary session of the Congress to repeal the purchasing clause of the Sherman Act. But the people were panic stricken. Depositors commenced to withdraw their money from the banks. Financial institutions

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all over the country were tumbling like houses of cards; the ghost dance of populism and free silver was abroad in the land, and no one could foretell the ultimate results. In the midst of this panic, the comptroller of the currency called for bank statements as to conditions on July 12, 1893.

The three national banks of Fergus Falls published such statements, and Hoskins gave in his paper a purported analysis of such statements, alleging the insolvency of each of such banks, and advised the withdrawal of deposits.

People now cannot imagine the effect of such a statement made at such a time. It was false in every particular, and made with a view of creating a "run" on the banks. The business men of Henning called a mass meeting and passed resolutions condemning Hoskins' statements, and expressing confidence in the said banks. No concerted run was made, but gradually depositors came and took out their money. The officers of the banks used to meet and sit up nights, wondering when the doors would have to be closed, while Hoskins was having the "time of his life."

The extra session of Congress lasted several months and finally was forced, by the statesmanship and iron will of President Cleveland, to repeal the silver purchasing clause of the Sherman Act.

As soon as this was done, matters began to ease up; confidence, in a great measure, was restored, and customers began to bring their money back to the banks. The Hoskins episode was forgotten and would have so remained but for the impetuous action of C. D. Wright, president of the First National Bank. Ordinarily, Mr. Wright is a cautious and level-headed man, but the action of Hoskins in libeling the banks still rankled, and he wanted revenge.

Without consulting any of the officers of the other banks, he went before a justice of the peace, R. H. Mardin, and swore out a warrant for the arrest of Hoskins, charging him with criminal libel. Hoskins, when brought before the court, was not pacific. There he gave vent to the mental gymnastics and abusive language which showed him a past master in billingsgate. He abused the court, the banks and plutocracy in general. Mardin, the justice, was a Vermonter, and fully alive to the dignity of his office and the respect due him as a magistrate. He, in turn, filed with the probate court an information against Hoskins for insanity. The latter was examined before the probate court and a jury of doctors, and pronounced insane. On this finding he was duly committed to the Fergus Falls state hospital for the insane.

He remained there but a few weeks when he was paroled, and finally discharged. Soon after coming out of the hospital he commenced an action against C. D. Wright; J. P. Williams, vice-president of the First National

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Bank; R. H. Mardin; Dr. George O. Welch, superintendent of the hospital, and J. W. Mason, member of the board of trustees of the hospital, for false imprisonment, laying his damages at fifty thousand dollars. This suit was tried and resulted in favor of the defendants.

For some reason unknown, Hoskins had the greatest antipathy against Williams, and took his revenge in an unique way. In 1898 Williams was a candidate for county attorney in the Republican convention of that year. C. L. Hilton beat him for the nomination. Williams bolted the ticket and ran independently against Hilton. Hoskins had removed from the county and gone to Minneapolis. When he learned that Williams was running against Hilton, he, Hoskins, came back, got a petition signed by the requisite number of voters, and announced himself as an independent candidate for county attorney. Hilton was elected, but the votes plainly demonstrated that it was the Hoskins candidacy that elected Hilton. So Hoskins had his revenge, such as it was, against Williams.

OPPERMAN, A DUTCHMAN.

Those interested in archaeological study of early Fergus may find profit in the ancient docket of Justice of Peace George F. Cowing, wherein is entered a case entitled State vs. Opperman. The cause was a celebrated farce of those far-off days, and the *dramatis personae* composed of individuals who helped make history of the early times.

The defendant had a homestead up near Opperman lake, a lake named in his honor. He was a little, undersized Dutchman. His way of shaving gave to his countenance a peculiar, monkey-like look, which was intensified by his small, sparkling eyes and quick, jerky motions. He shaved his upper lip and the front part of his chin so that the beard under the chin and around his face gave him a sinister expression and monkey appearance. His dress was in keeping with his general personality. He wore a long, snuff-colored coat, the tails of which reached below his knees; its waist was about six inches too long and marked off by two big horn buttons. Around the neck he wore the old-fashioned stock, reaching clear to the ears, enabling him to draw his head down within it as the turtle draws his into his shell.

He took snuff in great quantities, all of which did not find its way into the nostrils, but liberal portions of it were sprinkled over his person, making him appear like a disinfected automaton.

In his multiplicity of law suits he was often on the stand as a witness. He was as cute as he was repulsive and under sharp cross-examination was a study in human nature. When asked a question the full import of which he did not grasp at once, he would affect some sudden pain like rheumatism, for instance, when he would clasp his knee with both hands, go through the most excruciating contortions, and walk around the room is if trying to

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overcome the constriction. Then he would resume his seat and give an answer exactly as the lawyer cross-examining him did not want.

Lou Goodsell was a contemporary of Opperman, and his name adorns every justice docket and district court calendar for years in those ancient times. In fact, Goodsell, Opperman and Buse furnished most of the law business of that period. They were "three of a kind" and hard to beat.

In one of the numerous business transactions between Opperman and Goodsell, the former had given the latter a chattel mortgage on a span of horses. The note secured by the chattel mortgage falling due, Goodsell, in a surreptitious manner, had gained possession of the team and was advertising the same for sale according to the statute in such case made and provided.

During the pendency of these legal proceedings Goodsell drove the team down to Park Dale, where Opperman was living at the time, and left it standing in the street in front of the only store in the place and entered the store on some matter of business. This was along towards dark, and when he came out of the store his wagon was there, but no team. Opperman was present and frankly denied all knowledge of the team or where they were. Search was made around the barns and nearby woods, but no team could be found. Opperman assisted in the search and was greatly disturbed at the disappearance of the horses, as he was prepared and intended to redeem them the next day, so he said.

Owing to the darkness the search had to be postponed till morning. By that time Goodsell had his force organized, consisting of the sheriff and several deputies. The hunt continued for some days. No trace of the horses could be found. No one had seen them. Opperman kept himself in evidence all of the time and appeared greatly distressed at the loss. Finally, it occurred to some one that Buse had a cousin of the same name living down in Douglas county.

As a last resort, a deputy was sent to the Douglas county Buse, and there in his pasture the horses were found. He could give no account of how they came there. He only knew that some week or ten days before, he discovered them one morning in his pasture, and as an evidence of his good faith exhibited a printed notice he had had distributed, advertising for the owner of the team. This notice was a part of the scheme.

Goodsell swore out a complaint before Justice Cowing, charging Opperman with the theft. The examination lasted for three days, but nothing could be proved against Opperman and he was discharged. Buse was suspected, as he was a pal of Opperman; but Buse was known to have been in Fergus Falls when Goodsell started for Park Dale late in the afternoon. Who stole the team is a question never before answered. It was all simple

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enough. Buse and Opperman laid the plan and carried it out exactly as schemed. Business called Goodsell almost daily to Park Dale. It was arranged that Buse should be seen by Goodsell in Fergus Falls at the time he started for Park Dale. As Goodsell was starting on this particular occasion Buse stopped him and had a talk with him. When Goodsell was a sufficient ways out, Buse followed him and when the former went into the store Opperman engaged him in conversation till after Buse came up and took the horses. The rig that took Buse to Park Dale was sent back quickly, and the scheme worked to perfection. Buse himself drove the horses to his cousin in Douglas county during the night.

Sometime after this, Opperman opened a little store in Park Dale and one day came to Fergus Falls to get a policy of insurance on his goods. He first went to an agent who knew him and this agent refused to issue a policy. He then went to Knutson, Earl & Hanson, who wrote the insurance. Jake Austin, hearing of the transaction, said: "I will bet five dollars that store burns inside of one month." Well, it did burn inside of two weeks. Opperman had an alibi arranged, but it did not work so well as it did in the case with the horses. It got too warm for him and he skipped out to Iowa between two days and never returned. He did not try to collect the insurance.

EDWIN M. WRIGHT.

Edwin M. Wright, son of Matthew Wright, was one of the early pioneers. At the time of the Indian massacre in 1862, Matthew Wright had a saw-mill on his claim about five miles southwest of Fergus Falls, where the lower dam of the Otter Tail Power Company is now located. At the time of the outbreak, a part of the family, at least, was at the saw-mill on their claim, then called Dayton. Though this claim was miles and miles from any other human habitation and contained only the log house and primitive mill, still, frontier-like, it had its name. When the Indians went on the war path, the Wrights, with the other few settlers in this region, took refuge at Fort Abercrombie, situated on the Red river about twelve miles below the present city of Breckenridge. One brother, Edward, was killed by the Indians between Dayton and the fort.

The subject of this sketch was a remarkable man in many respects. His height was a little over six feet. He was very deliberate in movement and speech, and had at all times the most perfect command of his mental and physical powers, and was very reticent in talking of himself. He was a graduate of Appleton College, Wisconsin, a good lawyer and a brave man, as what I am about to tell will show.

In 1874, he had been my law partner for over two years. At that time there was an inclosure on the north bank of the river used for a bath-house.

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While in the bath-house with Mr. Wright one hot day in summer, I observed a very severe scar on his shoulder. I had never heard of any injury received by him, and when we returned to the office, I asked him directly how and when he sustained the injury to his shoulder. He said it was in 1862 at Fort Abercrombie. I waited for further information and as it was not forthcoming, asked him to tell me about it. After some hesitation, and then in a rather indifferent manner, he related the following incident:

He said that one night at the fort, after the settlers had all been brought in there he heard a noice in the stable among the horses. Saying nothing to the others, he took his gun, on which the bayonet was fixed, and went out to the barn to investigate. It was dark at the time, and as he opened the door and stepped in behind the horses, he was shot in the shoulder by an Indian. As soon as the shot was fired the Indian jumped into the manger in front of the horses and lay there. There was no way of escape from the barn except by the door where he stood. Wright reversed his gun, ran to the manger, where the Indian was lying, and jammed his bayonet clear through the Indian, killing him then and there. The short but thrilling story was ended in these words: "When I ran him through with my bayonet, he squealed like a pig."

During my long acquaintance with Mr. Wright, I never heard him refer to the incident again. His hatred of the Indians was sublime, if that word may be applied to hatred. In 1874, another brother, John, was killed in Dakota by the Indians, and who can say that he did not have ample reason for his hatred? A man who had been shot himself and had two brothers scalped by the Indians, could hardly be expected to entertain great Christian love for the "nobel red man." He died at Fergus Falls in 1893, in the month of November.

CHARLES WILLIAM KADDATZ.

The picture of C. W. Kaddatz deserves perpetuation (in water-colors) by the brush of a Bonheur or an Osthaus. Circumstances "over which we have no control" make this impossible; hence the unborn readers of "Who's Who" herein, must gain a mental picture from this unsatisfying portrait, traced by a weak but willing pen.

"Charlie," as he is known from Winnipeg to Panama, is an artist himself, though he doesn't paint pictures—he deals in them, and these pictures in which he trafficks are mostly engraved on the currency of the country, and have been gravitating towards him in ever-increasing volume ever since he established his bake shop and candy store in Fergus Falls thirty years ago.

This sketch is written for the benefit of generations yet to come. The living do not need it, because everybody who is anybody in Minnesota knows

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him now. He was born in Germany, July 9, 1864, where he lived to the mature age of six years, when he foresaw the great Franco-Prussian war and prophetically foretold the militarism sure to follow under the Bismark regime. To escape the results of such a dire system, he induced his father and mother, with their six children, to escape and seek refuge in America, the "land of the brave and free." With the foresight which has characterized his whole career, resulting in his present fortune, he advised his parents to settle in St. Paul, the capital city of Minnesota. There the father, by industry and honesty, provided the family with a comfortable if not luxurious home until 1876, when he died. At his father's death Charlie was thrown on his own resources, and fortunately he had an abundance of these, and has remained "long" on resources ever since.

He gained his education in the "school of hard knocks," graduating therefrom as valedictorian of his very numerous class. His first industrial adventure was on a farm, where most great men of our country start. He saw the great possibilities of agriculture on the fertile lands of Minnesota, and doubtless would have succeeded in "tickling the ground with a hoe till it laughed harvest," had he not seen greater possibilities in *"farming"* the farmer; so he soon abandoned agriculture for this broader field of activity. He remained on the farm but a short time, when he made a "trek" for St. Paul, where, coatless and shoeless, he presented himself to L. B. Smith, proprietor of a "swell" confectionery store on Third street, and applied for a position to learn the secrets of making sweets. There was little in his appearance to suggest adaptability for dainty candy making, but Smith was a judge of human nature and could read the possibilities in the budding millionaire, and took him on. Before the year of his apprenticeship was up he had mastered the business, and was capable of instructing the proprietor how it should be run. Being unable to make Mr. Smith realize the inefficiency of his management, Charley quit and tendered his services to a wholesale dry goods concern, where he mastered the intricacies of that business within a year.

He was now equipped to enter a wider field of activity, where he could apply his business knowledge and commercial experience, and study human nature at the same time. Of the numerous occupations that presented themselves to his mind, he chose that of news agent on the Milwaukee railroad. In this sphere of activity he came in contact with all classes and conditions of men, from the plutocratic corporation manager to the immigrant on his way to the farther west.

In addition to the regular articles of trade which his contract obligated him to handle, he soon "took on," as "side lines" on his own account, other articles of commerce, such as banana stalks, bibles, and ladies underskirts.

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As these articles cost him little or nothing and sold at fancy prices, he soon began to accumulate above and beyond his regular salary.

The regular price realized for a banana stock, carefully packed in damp paper, was seven dollars. He spoke three languages fluently, German, Norwegian and English. His largest trade in banana stalks was with the two former nationalities. He displayed, in these deals, the true commercial instinct. He was wont to first create a taste for bananas by giving one to his prospective customer. After the banana was consumed, Charlie would give the "consumer" a dissertation on banana culture in Dakota or any other locality where the immigrant might be going. The raising of the fruit was simplicity itself. All that was required was the planting of the banana stock, with little attention in watering immediately after setting out; result, a fine bunch of fruit the first year. This, followed by a talk on the food value of the banana, generally closed the deal. In this way he created a demand for his product, which is the basis of all commercial success.

What may be called the by-product of the banana stalk was nearly as profitable. The burlap wrapped around each banana bunch as shipped from the south, was converted into a garment and sold to the German and Norwegian girls as the latest mode in underskirts in that part of the country to which they were going.

During the six years of his work as news agent, the most of his earnings were consumed in his generous contributions towards the support of his less fortunate sisters. He there displayed that liberality to his family that has characterized the whole of his subsequent business career.

With what little capital he owned, supplemented by what he could borrow, he quit the railroad and came to Fergus Falls in 1886. He arrived late in the afternoon, and the next morning, without a coat, dressed with a long white apron, he appeared as the proprietor of a small cigar, candy and fruit store, purchased during the night, located on the present site of his one hundred thousand dollar "Hotel Kaddatz."

The stock consisted of a few boxes of five-cent cigars; a few pounds of fly-specked candy; a half bushel of rancid nuts; a half bunch of bananas hung in the window, a few lemons and a barrel and a half of apples. Charlie commenced to arrange his "stock" to make the best display possible. He stacked the half barrel of apples into an artistic pyramid, rolled the full barrel out to the front of the store, and advertised in the local paper the next day as the "Apple King of Fergus Falls."

The young "Wanamaker" made friends and trade increased. Notwithstanding Charlie's protests to the contrary, it was generally believed that he realized a profit on all he sold. He was energetic, thrifty and honest. If he knew how to "short change," he did not practice it on his customers.

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His trade grew much faster than the nursery stock he sold on the train for planting in Dakota. As room became cramped, he had the building enlarged. When he tired of paying rent, he bought the store building and lot on which it stood. As soon as his business outgrew that lot, he bought the adjoining one and building on the east, and opened up a restaurant, bakery and candy kitchen. "Kaddatz bread" was shipped to all the surrounding towns; he supplied the home market and outside villages with fresh fruit in the fruit season; he installed the most elaborate soda fountain known in the Northwest, into which the waters of the Red river of the North flowed and came forth in the form of currency.

From this time on, the great problem that presented itself to Mr. Kaddatz was what to do with his money. He found use for large amounts in the care of his sisters and the education of their children, and when these were all provided for he directed his attention and sufficient funds to the schooling of some of his favorite clerks. They all turned out well and justified the faith and confidence placed in them. He then commenced to invest in real estate—city property; but as soon as Kaddatz got a lot, there were a half dozen others who wanted it, and he was generally obliged to let it go for about double what he paid for it.

Then he bought a third interest in a flour-mill—the Red River Roller Mill. From this investment money came in so rapidly that he had to seek other channels for investing it. He conceived the idea of a candy factory in Grand Forks, North Dakota. It was built, and was a "money maker" from the start. It now employs about one hundred hands and pays a handsome annual dividend. This was a new embarrassment for Charlie. Mr. Barrows, one of his associates in the flour-mill and candy factory, built the finest residence in Fergus Falls. This gave Charlie a pointer, and taking some of his ever-increasing surplus, he built a finer one. Barrows bought a fine automobile; Charlie bought one twice as large and fine, and hired a colored chauffeur to drive it, though he seldom rides in it himself. It is utilized for the enjoyment of his family and friends. If the price of gasoline continues to soar, this may be the answer to Charlie's question: How can I get rid of my income?

In his search for how to spend his money, he bought an interest in the First State Bank of Fergus Falls and became one of its directors. All of these enterprises having failed to relieve him of his surplus, he struck upon another plan. He determined to build a hotel.

With this end in view, he razed his frame buildings, in which for years he had conducted his business, and erected in their stead, at a cost of one hundred thousand dollars, the finest and best equipped hotel in Minnesota

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north of Minneapolis, and called it "Hotel Kaddatz." This has been opened about one year, and the business has outgrown it already, and he is now planning on an extension, carrying it south, clear to the river.

No picture of the subject of this sketch would be complete without mention of Charlie at play. It would be a mistake to conclude that he is devoted entirely to "dollar chasing." Nothing could be further from the truth. Nothwithstanding his great success in a business career, it is his social side and fraternal activities which have contributed most to the wide acquaintance he enjoys. If there is any society to which he does not belong, it must be of very recent origin. However, his chief recreations are found with the Elks and Shriners. His activities in these two organizations would require a volume to describe. He is entertainer-in-chief at all festal functions of these orders from Winnipeg to Panama. At each occasion he is sure to be called on for a speech, and never fails to respond. As an orator he is unique. He copies no one, and no one can copy him. His vocabulary is phenomenal. Where, when and how he learned all the polysyllabic words of the language is a mystery. The inimitable *sang froid* with which he misplaces them, missing their appropriate meaning and use, affords exquisite enjoyment in his unique oratorical efforts. His fluency in their use, and disregard of definitions, is one of their chief charms.

His effort in his own defense in the police court of Winnipeg, where he stood charged with disturbing the peace, by ringing a cow bell at night contrary to orders from the police, is said to have been one of his most famous. British courts are nothing if not solemn. The prisoner declined the generous offer of the justice to appoint counsel to conduct the defense, and made his own plea. Questioned by the magistrate as to who he was and where he came from, he answered: "I am an American citizen, and I am mayor of Black Duck, in the state of Minnesota." That name, unlike the water on the duck's back, has stuck to him ever since. It was the result of an inspiration. Charlie in defense of his action in ringing the cow bell, maintained that he was a Shriner; that the Shriners had been given the freedom of the city; that such freedom meant something in an American city like Black Duck, and he had assumed that it had meant something when extended by the city of Winnipeg to the distinguished visitors of the United States. "Where," he exclaimed, "is your 'blarsted' liberty and boasted hospitality if an American citizen—" At this point the proceedings were interrupted by the magistrate being called to the telephone. The mayor of Winnipeg was on the line and inquired if there was a Shriner on trial for disorderly conduct. The justice answered in the affirmative. "Well, discharge him," said the mayor, "the visiting Shriners can do anything short of murder." This

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cut short Charlie's speech, but he said he would keep the balance for some future occasion.

His next great triumph was his address made in Panama to a gang of negro workmen who could speak the Spanish language only. The wonderful effect of that oration is traditional, as the only reporter present was unable to understand a word of it.

Such is a picture of Charlie Kaddatz, than whom there is no man in Fergus Falls better liked or more highly esteemed. His has been no royal path to success; it has not been flowery beds of ease; his rise in the world of affairs has been accomplished by dint of hard work and that intense application which always brings success when rightly applied. We pay this tribute to him who has done so much for his home city—the genial host of his own hostelry—the inimitable Charlie Kaddatz.

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CHAPTER XXXIV.

SIDELIGHTS ON OTTER TAIL HISTORY.

WHY OTTER TAIL.

The origin of names is always an interesting study. The word Otter Tail seems to have had a peculiar fascination for the early pioneers of Otter Tail county. The name appears to be of Indian origin and to have been first applied to the narrow spit of land at the eastern extremity of the lake to which the name was afterwards applied. The scientific explanation of the reason for the application of the name to the lake has been fully explained by Warren Upham, the secretary and librarian of the Minnesota Historical Society, who has kindly prepared an article on this subject for this history.

Many years ago George B. Wright, whose history is indissolubly connected with Otter Tail county, wrote a humorous article in which he gave his views as to the tale of the Otter Tail. Mr. Wright gives a graphic pen picture of the origin of the name and it is very appropriately given in connection with the scientific article of Mr. Upham. Mr. Wright wrote his article in 1881 and incorporated it in an advertisement brochure which he issued that year. The articles of Mr. Upham and Mr. Wright are both given in full. They follow:

THE TALE OF THE OTTER TAIL.

By George B. Wright.

It is related—in the Talmud, probably—that the wild Red man perpetrated the name, Otter Tail. What he really called it before the translator got his work in, heaven only knows. We may dimly realize our narrow escape, when we look upon the polysyllabic blasphemy of names current in the benighted state of Blaine. In the centre of Otter Tail county is the largest lake in western Minnesota—ten miles long by three miles broad. It is the *e pluribus unum* of the "thousand lakes" of the Park Region. The Red river pours its clear waters into this lake at the northeastern point of the huge bow that, sweeping around the upper end of the lake, furnishes a smooth sandy beach three miles in length. The river current bears the sand lakeward. The lake waves, driven by southwestern winds, dash them back upon the shore. A conference committee is appointed and its report is adopted; lake and river unite in building a bar from that northeastern point southerly, sweeping around the curved shore for nearly one and a half miles. Behind this bar, the river, clear as crystal, regular in curvature and uniform in width, as if laid out by an engineer, finds its way to the lake at the still,

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quiet southeastern point of the long bow shore. Outside, the lake piles up the hard sand, till the bar has become a long curved point of land, fifteen feet above the waters, three or four rods in width, a smooth, grassy lawn shaded by a growth of old oaks.

It was a beautiful place. The aesthetic Red man so construed it, for it was a good place for fish and he camped here himself, his squaws, pappooses, Lares, lairs and other insect attachments. With his usual appreciation of the true and beautiful, he managed to catch on, as it were, to the tail—the Otter Tail, as he called it, and the band of dusky Ojibways who infested that region were known as Otter Tails. Of course the name—by a process of morbid contagion—extended from the long, curved point of land to the lake, then to the county and to the speculative city that ten years ago (that is, in 1871), in anticipation of the Northern Pacific railroad, sprung up—a Jonah's gourd in the wilderness—on the site of the old Indian village of Otter Tail. As America's truest poet has remarked—

"Where corner lots were sold for cash
And rum,
Above the cemetery where reposed the Indian and
His dog."

It was a flourishing city in its day. The natural deviltry of the Red man was supplemented by the acquired villainy of the "pale face." The dance-house, whiskey saloon and keno den became the successors of the dog feast and scalp dance of "ye dam sauvage."

But the North Pacific railroad, like the good Samaritan that it was, "passed by on the other side" of Rush lake, and Otter Tail City and its one thousand roughs and fishy nymphs "fled the scene." The city became once more a desolate waste. But the red Indian still maintained his firm hold on the Tail, until one day some years ago a party of lumbermen—Vandals of the North—to facilitate the progress of their log-drive, actually *cut off the tail* and the life blood of the river of redness gushed through the irreparable wound. The beautiful curved channel is grown up with reeds and wild rice, the lake sands have blocked up the old outlet and a new bar is forming between the new outlet and the lake. The old bar forms now the last of a long series of parallel curved sandy ridges surrounding the east end of the lake. Otter Tail county is past the tadpole stage, shed its tail and has assumed the attitude of dignified maturity.

ORIGIN OF THE NAME OF OTTER TAIL COUNTY.

By Warren Upham.

This county received its name from the Otter Tail lake and river. The lake, from which the river was named, derived this peculiar Ojibway designation, here translated, from a long and narrow sand bar, having an

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outline suggestive of the tail of an otter, formed very long ago, and now covered with large woods, which extends curvingly southeast and south between the last mile of the inflowing Otter Tail (or Red) river and the lake, at its eastern end, in section 10 of Otter Tail township. At its northwestern base the bar is connected with the main shore by a gradually widening higher tract between the river and lake, to which, with the prolonged bar, the Indians very fittingly, in view of their geographic outlines, gave this name. Its Ojibway form is given by the late Rev. J. A. Gilfallan as Nigagwanowe, that is, Otter Tail, both for the lake and for the outflowing river to its junction with the Bois des Sioux river. The otter was formerly frequent or common in and near the rivers and lakes of all parts of this state, but is now rare. It subsists on fish, capturing them by rapid and expert swimming.

The late Hon. J. V. Brower, who visited the locality three times, in 1863, 1882 and 1899, on the latter occasion giving it a careful examination as a part of his archaeologic survey of the region, stated that the height of the bar varies from ten to twenty-five feet above the lake; that its length slightly exceeds a mile, while its width, somewhat uniform, is only about fifty to seventy-five feet; and that it appears to have been amassed by wave and ice action of the lake. It was probably built by the waves during storms, nearly to its present extent and form, within the first few centuries after the lake began its existence, which was at the time of uncovering this region from the receding ice-sheet at the close of the Glacial period.

Lumbermen, some twenty-five or thirty years ago, cut through this bar about a third of a mile northward from its end, to provide a better channel for driving logs. Subsequently the river enlarged this cut by washing away the bar from a gap having a total length of one thousand four hundred feet, as measured in 1899 by Mr. Brower, who reported that the beach sand had then closed the old inlet at the end of the bar. A narrow lake, therefore, now occupies the deserted channel between that point and the present debouchure of the river.

Otter Tail City, which, about the years 1850 and 1860, was an important trading post on the route from the then flourishing town of Crow Wing to Pembins and the Selkirk settlements, stood on the main shore at the northeastern end of Otter Tail lake, adjoining the mouth of the river and the end of the Otter Tail bar. The United States land office for this district was located there during several years, and was thence removed to Alexandria in 1862. But all the buildings of the "city" were long since removed or destroyed, and only the cellar holes now remain.

The stream called by us the Red river was known to the Ojibways at the time of Owen's geological exploration, in 1848, as the Otter Tail river

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from this lake to its junction with the Red Lake river at Grand Forks. The name Red river of the North, distinguishing it from the Red river of Louisiana, was used by Nicollet's report and map, in 1843, for the entire extent of the river from its source near Itasca lake; but present usage by many of the older people retains the name Otter Tail for the river above the lake of this name (though other names, derived from successive lakes, are used there by the Ojibways); and indeed occasionally it is still called Otter Tail river along all its portion continuing below this lake to the axis of the Red river valley at Breckenridge and Wahpeton, where it receives the Bois de Sioux river and turns from a westward to a northward course.

A COMPLETE HISTORY OF OTTER TAIL COUNTY IN 1874.

An illustrated historical atlas of Minnesota, issued in 1874 by A. T. Andreas, gives a separate map and historical sketch of each county in the state. The brief sketch of Otter Tail county (page 250) is full of glaring inaccuracies and well illustrates the danger of following former accounts of the early history of the county. In the first place, the county was not organized until 1868, the act providing for its organization being passed in March, 1868, and the first meeting of the commissioners not taking place until the following September. The establishment of a mission at Otter Tail City is another point about which there is much doubt. The Northern Pacific is far from "passing through it from east to west on its northern border." The editor assumes no responsibility for this sketch, but gives it to show what was considered a history of the county in 1874—undoubtedly the first history of the county to be published:

Otter Tail county was organized under an act of the State Legislature in the fall of 1867, when the following county commissioners were appointed: Chancy Whiting, Marcus Shaw and E. L. Lacy. Donald McDonald, now living at Otter Tail lake, was the first white settler in this county. Mr. McDonald remained here during the Indian massacre of 1862. He is Scotch-Canadian by birth. In 1837 he wintered at Graham's Point, now in Wilkin county of this state, and was employed in the Northwestern Fur Company, with headquarters at Crow Wing.

Rev. Mr. Breck started an Indian mission at Gull and Ottertail lakes. Mathew Wright and sons made the first improvements five miles south of Fergus Falls in June, 1857, at a place called Dayton. Joseph Whitford, in the fall of 1857, made a claim on the site where the town of Fergus Falls now stands, and continued to occupy it until the Indian outbreak of 1862, when he was killed.

In the spring of 1868 there was a colony from Cambridge, Massachusetts, who settled at Leaf City, six miles east of Otter Tail lake. This settlement was also broken up by the Sioux Indians in 1862. There was a land office located at this time at Otter Tail City, with George B. Clitherall as register, and William Sawyer, receiver. It remained there until 1862, when it was removed to Alexandria.

Otter Tail county (taking into consideration as yet being in its infancy) may be classed as one of the best in northwestern Minnesota. In size it is one of the largest, being forty-two miles north and south, by fifty-four east and west. About one-half of it is fine rolling prairie. The balance is about equally divided with good timber and beauti-

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ful lakes. In improvements it is equal to, if not ahead, of any of its sister counties in the Northwest. It is well supplied with public roads, and has the advantage of the Northern Pacific passing through it from east to west on its northern border.

As an evidence of enterprise, we will here state that are eleven churches already built, and sixty-six organized public schools. The county is well supplied with water. The Red river of the North passes through the western part of the county. Rush, Toad, Pelican, Dead Lake, Long Prairie, Pomme de Terre and Clitherall are important streams of the county. The Red river is navigable to within a few miles of Fergus Falls. This river was navigated as early as 1848 by one David Dale Owen, a United States geologist, who passed down the river from Otter Tail lake to Pembina with a couple of French half-breed companions. And it is said in his report that as he was proceeding leisurely down the river, unaware of any rapids, a sudden bend in the river (just where the upper bridge now is) brought them so near the falls that they could not gain the shore, but were drawn over the rapids by the swift current, the boat capsized, and a very wet crew, as well as a ruin among provisions, mathematical instruments and outfit generally was the result. And it is further stated that this accident necessitated an encampment on the townsite of Fergus, and as the geologist probably foresaw a city here, he thought it his duty to fix the latitude. So when his instruments were dried he made observations and reckoned the latitude of the future city to be forty-six degrees, thirteen minutes and twenty-four seconds north. The county seat is Fergus Falls. It has a population of about six hundred.

Perham, located on the line of the Northern Pacific railroad, is a beautiful place, and is one, with Fergus Falls, of the principal points of trade.

There are twelve improved water powers in Otter Tail county, and those on Red river at Fergus Falls are unequaled for the size of stream in the United States, there being a fall of about one hundred feet to the mile. Jacob Schwab, Hans Juleson, J. Zimmerman, H. Hall and A. B. Larson are the present county commissioners. The population of Otter Tail county is estimated at nine thousand.

THE FERGUS FALLS LAND OFFICE AND OTTER TAIL DEMOCRACY.

One of the earliest land offices in the state of Minnesota was established at Otter Tail City. When the Legislature of 1858 divided all of the northern part of the state into counties, surveyors were sent over that section of the state to survey the land and get it ready for sale. An act of Congress had just been passed establishing a number of land offices in the territory of Minnesota, and President Buchanan, a Democrat, appointed members of his own party as registers and receivers of the offices in the territory. He appointed Major George B. Clitherall, a southern Democrat, as the first register of the land office at Otter Tail City, and William Sawyer, with the same political proclivities, was appointed receiver. Very little is known about these two men, due, in large measure, to the fact that the land office was moved from Otter Tail City at the opening of the Civil War, while at the same time Clitherall and Sawyer left the county. With the moving of the land office in 1862 the land in the county was on sale at Alexandria until 1876.

The land office was moved from Alexandria to Fergus Falls in 1876 and was stationed in this city until February, 1889, when it was removed to Crookston. While the office was located at Fergus Falls this district

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comprises all of Otter Tail county except township 37, ranges 36 to 43, inclusive, this tier of townships being attached to the Crookston district. In addition, the counties of Wilkin, Grant, Traverse, Douglas and the north half of both Stevens and Pope counties, were a part of the Fergus Falls district. No change was made in the size of the district while the land office remained in Fergus Falls.

When President Grant moved the land office from Alexandria to Fergus Falls it was in charge of Soren Listoe and John H. Allen, register and receiver, respectively. These two officials removed to Fergus Falls and continued in charge of the office until 1883, when they were succeeded by B. N. Johnson and Jacob Austin, respectively. Johnson had been practicing as an attorney before the land office by helping prospective settlers make out their papers and get located on their claims. Austin, whose interesting career in Fergus Falls is noticed elsewhere in this volume, had been a merchant, but at this time was proprietor of the Guttenberg dam-site and lived in that part of town. These men were both Republicans and when Cleveland was elected in the fall of 1884 they knew that after March 4, 1895, they might be removed from office any time.

It is at this point that Otter Tail county Democratic politics entered the land office. Cleveland was the first Democratic President since the Civil War, and consequently greedy office seekers of his political faith appeared over the United States in countless swarms. This was the first time in the history of Otter Tail county that a Democrat could feel an active interest in the welfare of his party. Consequently, when the Democratic pastry was being carved in the various states, Otter Tail county put in an application for at least two slices of pie, namely: The offices of register and receiver of the local land office.

During the spring and summer of 1885 every Democrat in the county was casting longing eyes toward one or the other of these offices. The summer passed and no action had yet been taken toward the deposition of the two Republicans. The Democratic pulse of the county was beginning to get very feverish as the autumn days drew nigh and disciples of Jefferson were making frantic appeals to the heads of the Democratic party in the state to do something for Otter Tail county. The two chief machinists of the Democratic party at that time were natives of the Emerald Isle, Kelley and Doran, familiarly, if not affectionately, known as "Me and Mike."

The blow fell in November, 1885, or rather, there were two blows. The first shock was caused by the announcement that Thomas F. Cowing, of Alexandria, had been appointed register. It is probable that the Democrats of the county expected one of the two officials to be selected from one of the other counties in the district, but they hoped that the register would be selected from the ranks of the patriots from Otter Tail. But this shock was as nothing compared to what followed when it became known that the

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receivership had been given to L. L. Aune. Aune was at least three different things—a Democrat, a Norwegian and a grocer. Aune was appointed, so his sponsors maintained, solely because he fulfilled to a desirable degree the first two of these qualifications, namely—he was a Democrat and it was not denied that he was a Norwegian. But the Democrats of the county, Norwegian and otherwise, asseverated that "Me and Mike" had chosen him not because he was a Democrat, and not because he was a Norwegian, but because he was a grocer. Contemporaneous accounts of the time indicate that Aune was far from being a representative Norwegian, Democrat though he might be, and this fact was duly set forth in a protest which was drawn up and liberally signed by several of the most prominent Norwegian citizens of the county. Among other things which this protest had to say about Aune, it contained the following statement which is sufficiently indicative of his standing among his fellow countrymen: "If he has any following at all, it is so diminutive as to be imperceptible to the naked eye." If the reports of the time are to be believed, Aune was chosen by Kelley for the reason that he (Aune) owed Kelley, a member of the national Democratic committee of the state, and a wholesale grocer of St. Paul, a bill of goodly proportions. This may or may not be the truth, but there is no mistake in the fact that public sentiment at the time of the appointment did not approve of the selection of Aune.

It should be mentioned in this connection that the county Democracy had united more or less on J. P. Kennedy as register and Edwin M. Wright, receiver of the land office. Kennedy had been toadying to Kelley and had pronounced the Irish pair, "Me and Kelley," "not only Irishmen but gentlemen," and consequently Kennedy was forced to swallow his discomforture with as good grace as he could show. How Wright felt over the outcome of the land office appointments history fails to record, but it is safe to say that his affection for "Me and Mike" did not increase to any great extent. Other prominent Democrats of the county—George C. Walters, Milner Lowry, Robert Miller, James Gray, M. J. Daly, Erick Frankberg, H. E. Boen, C. F. Hanson, etc.—were outspoken in their denunciation of the Democratic state machine.

The office of register, to which Cowing was appointed in the fall of 1895, continued to be filled by him as long as the office remained in Fergus Falls. But the other office, that of receiver, was destined to be the cause of no little contention and dissension before the land office left Fergus Falls in 1889. Aune, the man with the "imperceptible" following, was more of an expert in political manoeuvers than in the transaction of such business as fell to the lot of the receiver of the land office. In fact, within less than a couple of years from the time of his appointment Aune had his reputation

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as a man and his accounts as receiver hopelessly jumbled. His friends, "Me and Mike," had called upon him to furnish a delegation from Otter Tail county which would be amenable to their dictation, and the furnishing of such a hand-picked delegation by Aune was said to have cost him the sum of seven hundred dollars. Whether this amount had anything to do with his land office accounts is not known, but the upshot of his political manoeuvering and poor bookkeeping was his summary dismissal from the office of receiver.

Aune's deposition on June 23, 1887, was followed by the appointment of J. G. Nelson, of Parkers Prairie, who, strange to say, had been one of the most active Republicans of the county. The selection of Nelson by the Democratic machine was another stunning blow for the Simon-pure Democrats of the county, and it is even said that Aune himself was stricken dumbfounded. The situation was not clarified when Nelson announced a month later that he did not want the office. Aune, of course, had been filling the office during this time, waiting until his successor should qualify. Aune had in some mysterious way secured an appointment elsewhere and was anxious to relinquish the receivership in Fergus Falls, but months were to pass before he was to be relieved. There was no dearth of candidates, but the manipulators of the state machinery did not seem to be able to agree on a successor. As 1887 drew toward a close Aune became too convivial to conduct the office in a sober manner and the result was that his bondsmen, on November 24, 1887, telegraphed to Washington that he was neglecting the office, embezzling the money of the government and, furthermore, that he had been discharged for drunkenness by the firm which had employed him. A little more than two months were to elapse before a successor to Aune was ready to take the office. On February 2, 1888, K. O. Harris was selected from a large field of candidates, including such worthy citizens of the county as Capt. John Hay, J. P. Kennedy, H. S. Cole, George Waters, M. R. Lowry and a few others. Harris managed to hold the office until it was removed to Crookston the following year. The appointment of Harris did not cover all the seas of Democracy in the county with oil, as is evidenced by the report of an interview which M. R. Lowry, one of the aspirants for the office, had with the *Journal*. Apropos of Harris's appointment, Lowry, when questioned as to what claim Harris had on the administration, replied "Not one single damn claim." With the appointment of Harris, Otter Tail county politics and the land office disappear from local history. The office was moved to Crookston in February, 1889, and Cowing and Harris were transferred with it at the time.

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REMINISCENCES OF FERGUS FALLS.

(An extremely interesting article with the above heading appeared in the *Journal* of December 14, 1882, but without signature. It is very evident that the author was personally acquainted with all the persons and incidents which he mentions.)

E. W. Sims located in Fergus Falls in 1870 and selected his gift business lot "on the hill," as it was then designated, but not styled, "corner of Lincoln avenue and Mill street." A chronicler of these days tells that his log cabin, with its sod roof, was "looked up to as the best house in Fergus Falls." And when a little later Justus Pickit, and his partner, Abbott, came up from St. Cloud and built the building later occupied by Wright & Crockroft, directly across the street from Sims' "pioneer store," as he delighted to call his hovel, it was a great day for the "coming city." Sims served his day and passed on to newer fields, while Justus held the fort against competitors, and lived to reap the reward of well doing. But it is worth noting that these pioneers in business chose their locations on what has proved to this day to be the most valuable lots in Fergus Falls, and that while the city has grown and spread over the hills and through the groves, up the river and down the river, with the addition of mills and railroads, still the spot where they located remains the business center of the city and it is a little singular that the business center has never varied a half block from where these pioneers stuck their stakes.

From the day Sims sold his first plug of tobacco or pound of salt pork, not a year has passed but the business of Fergus has increased. At the first there was but little trade. Settlers were few and poor, and of produce there was none. Eli Dewey often said that he should have starved if Providence had not sent a mink into the boys' traps about every time the family must have a sack of flour. Little by little the trade grew. Teamsters and farmers earned largely by hauling freight from Benson here, the nearest railroad point. Most of the substantial pioneers of Western township made their living for many years by freighting, chiefly with oxen, from Campbell to Fergus, taking home a load of wood in return. Soon farmers began to have wheat, butter, beef, etc., to sell, and when, in 1873, the business of the town was divided about as follow: Two general stores, one drug store, two hardware stores, four stores handling groceries, confections, cigars, etc., one barber who combined peanuts and lemonade with his lather, one harness-maker, one shoe-maker, one doctor, three clergymen (chiefly supported by the missionary societies), and seven or eight lawyers. Of the latter and most numerous class, at least two were farmers as well as lawyers, and one taught school.

At the time referred to in 1873, every store but one in town was on

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Lincoln between Court and Mill street and a single blacksmith shop was all that graced the south side of the avenue east of Mill. On the north side was the old Mathies mansion, a carpenter shop where Week & Wessburg was later located, a blacksmith shop, out of which Jay Near later built the kitchen to the Occidental, the Cataract House, the Scandinavian hotel and the old *Journal* building. There was nothing but log houses from Prinzl's corner west to Schultz's (then George Waters), and yet, as has been said, that block had all the stores but one—Sundahl's old store.

The stores were all small, low of ceiling, but up in the air in one sense, —elevated because there was a swampy piece of road in the spring time from Court street to Union avenue. The passage of the great slough from the last named avenue to where Lawyer Corliss had ventured to take up his residence, away over in McLain's addition, was made by a grand detour, and even this was frequently impassable in wet weather.

But even in those days of small things everybody who gazed on Fergus liked it, liked its people, and readily believed there was a bright future in store for those who had the patience to sit down and wait for it. By degrees their number were reinforced. Otter Tail, the finest agricultural county in the state, was rapidly developing, and Fergus has ever been regarded as a leading trading point for a large circuit of country. Farmers came long distance here to mill, county business and land office business called them; and the First National Bank called a great many people here from a distance. It was the only bank of issue above St. Cloud for seven or eight years, and its transactions were always conducted so fairly, its delicate collection business was carried on so kindly and squarely, that the people always regarded the institution with that favor and pride that it deserved.

In 1872 the incorporators of the First National Bank took a bold step and established that institution; the same year Page & Scott built the first flour-mill on the second dam that vexed the channel of the Red. The United States land office was removed here from Alexandria in the fall of 1876. Walter C. Bacon, who came here as the agent of George B. Wright in 1870, was a valuable man to the young town for the next succeeding ten years. Nothing escaped his notice; watchful, thoughtful of the poor, guarding the moral and humane interest of the town, he made a strong impression for good on the young community.

GEORGE B. WRIGHT'S STORY.

In 1874 a small brochure appeared, bearing the legend, "Fergus Falls, the coming city of the Northwest, and the Park Region of Minnesota, the choicest tract in the Northwest, as seen in 1873, being off-hand sketches, by 'Old Settler.'" The "Old Settler" was George B. Wright and his brochure

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bearing the title just given contained thirty pages of interesting material, topographical, cartographical, geological, historical and reminiscent. In addition to the history of Fergus Falls, he embodied in the pamphlet a very illuminating reminiscent article which throws considerable light on the early history of the county. Inasmuch as Wright had more to do with the establishment of Fergus Falls than any other man, it seems appropriate to give his article in its entirety, remembering that it was written in 1873. It follows:

I have a dim suspicion that the "old settlers" who infest this western country, and who annually get up reunions, and have dinners and toasts and speeches and things to drink, are regarded by the modern people of fashion and business as old humbugs, who have told their yarns of pioneer adventures so many times that they really believe them to be true. The old settler's recollections are always of a race of men of large size. An old settler by the name of Homer (he didn't have any other name and I don't remember what his father's name was, for he died some time ago and I had no personal acquaintance with him), who used to write pompous poetry for the old settlers' annual meetings, mentions in regard to the early inhabitants that they were

"Not such as live in these degenerate days."

It is, I believe, generally conceded that Homer was correct. Having a laudable ambition to "see Homer and go one better," the Old Settler desires to give you some incidents in regard to the early history of Fergus Falls and Otter Tail county. History is a good word. It subdivides itself naturally into ancient history and modern history. The ancient history of Fergus extends from the days of Chaos (who was on old settler) down to June 1st, A. D. 1871; modern history takes the balance of the time and discounts the ages. As I have no very distinct recollections of the earlier part of the ancient history of Fergus, I shall confine myself to some reminiscences of the years immediately preceding the modern period.

Otter Tail county was established, I believe, by the last Territorial Legislature of Minnesota, in 1857. It derives its name from the beautiful river which flows through the county from northeast to southwest. The river was and is properly the Red river, and all the old maps have it so laid down. The Otter Tail is the name of the long, curved point of land lying between the river and lake at Otter Tail City. This singular point is nearly one and a half miles long and not more than three rods wide, and has been formed by the action of the ice and winds on the lake and the current of the river at its entrance to the lake, and has successively given its name to the lake, the county, the former county seat, and has almost supplanted the old and honored name of the river also. I would here remark that the noble red man is responsible for the elegant and euphonious name which distinguishes our county from all others. Let us learn to respect him for what he has done.

Otter Tail City was designated by the Legislature as the county seat. It was the "Metropolisville" of the Northwest. It was one of the rising cities of the townsite period of 1856. The United States land office was there, and a couple of high-toned proslavery gentlemen of the good old days of Jeems Buchanan held forth there as register and receiver. That circumstance accounts for the names (Buchanan and Clitherall) inflicted on two of the beautiful lakes of that region.

The Republican flood came in 1860 and swept away the Democratic patriarchs, and the heathen aboriginee came in 1862 and completed the ruin by chopping a hole in the safe and extracting thence all the postage stamps (articles of necessity with the children of the forest) and distributing the office records to the winds. It is worthy of note that they were particularly severe in their treatment to printed blanks, while the unimportant

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books and papers which had merely been scribbled over by the foolish white man were left undisturbed. It is a pleasant thing to contemplate the sagacity of the untutored native.

Except the few persons at Otter Tail City there was no settlement in the eastern part of the county until about 1865. In the western part of the county the first settlement was made probably in 1857, at Fergus Falls, by one Jo. Whitford. In the spring of that year James Fergus, of Little Falls, now resident of Montana, after the manner of the period sent a party out in search of a townsite. The Indians told them of the big swift water of the Red river. They found it and named it in honor of their employer. The same year Gen. T. H. Barrett, of St. Cloud, surveyed the townsite. The writer hereof remembers to have seen some of the stakes set by that pioneer surveyor, who in the same year surveyed for George F. Brott, then of St. Cloud and now of New Orleans, the townsite of Breckinridge, naming it after the Vice President of the United States.

Some time in 1857 also, the Burbanks (J. C. and H. C. Burbank & Co.) established the stage line from St. Cloud to Ft. Abercrombie, cutting out the old road through the Alexandria woods (of infernal memory to every traveler), and for the doing of which may they in infinite mercy be forgiven. Douglas county, properly remembering their great crime, has ever since refused to reimburse them for the thousand dollars' worth of corduroy and stumps with which a suffering people have been inflicted by Burbank & Co. Douglas county never would have done it, never—for it cost money.

Burbank established a station at the crossing of Red river, and Matthew Wright became the station keeper. He is the "old settler" par excellence of this region. A deep-worn and grass-overgrown track crosses the prairie, and an occasional fragment of an old corduroy bridge or two, all that now show where for years the red hacks of the stage company formed the only line of communication between the civilized world and the far-off military post of Abercrombie.

Matthew Wright called his place "Dayton," in honor, I believe, of the distinguished Jerseyman who was Fremont's second in the Presidential campaign of 1856, and here on the frontier, as in the political field, Breckinridge and Dayton became rivals.

Whitford built a log cabin at Fergus Falls. The writer remembers to have seen it once, looking dim, dilapidated, ghastly—suggestive of the dark, fearful days of 1862, when beneath the murderous tomahawk and knife of the savage, hundreds of dear, brave lives passed away. The cellar of his cabin may yet be seen near Whitford street, just inside the fence of Henry G. Page's block. The spot should be marked and carefully preserved. A hundred years hence the stranger may read on a tablet: "Here dwelt Jo. Whitford, the first white inhabitant of Fergus Falls; killed by Sioux Indians in the massacre of August, 1862," with much the same feeling that is inspired by the little iron disc in the pavement of State street, Boston, which marks the spot where fell the first martyr of the American Revolution.

Smith was an eccentric Scotchman, and a wild tale of his buried gold on the townsite of Fergus is the only mystery and romance of the place which tradition has given us. He was a very rich man and buried almost as much money as did that romantic party named Captain Kidd. Recently a solitary gold sovereign has been found near the site of the old cabin. It seems probable that this solitary coin constituted the entire capital of Smith, and that he lost it one day out of a hole in his breeches pocket, and couldn't find it again. Imagination has been letting out his money at more than five per cent. a month compound interest, ever since 1862, and will continue to do so. Who can compute the piled wealth of the eccentric person named Smith as it will be a hundred years hence?

In 1859 and 1860 some of the lands of the county were first surveyed. Sixteen townships around Otter Tail lake, and five or six in the southwestern part of the county. Oscar Taylor, since mayor of St. Cloud; E. D. Atwater, now secretary of the land department of the St. Paul & Pacific railroad, and J. R. King (whom we hope has reformed and become a better surveyor than then) were among those who made these early surveys. Fergus Falls was designated on the plat of township 133, range 43, as embracing one

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hundred and twenty acres on the north side of the river, and extending from about where Union avenue now is up the stream for three-fourths of a mile. An old field of three or four acres occupied the land between Cascade street and the mill pond. The old corn rows can yet be traced.

In the fall of 1864, and before any new settlements had been made west of Alexandria (the old settlers of 1862 having been all killed or driven away by the Indians), the surveyed lands in this region were offered at public sale in the St. Cloud land office. Whitford had not perfected his title. Fergus had gone off to Montana with Capt. Jim Fisk, and Fergus Falls remained without an owner a year or two. This whole region was out of the world, worthless, and would always remain so. Such was the popular idea. One day a surveyor named Wright, lounging around the land office at St. Cloud, concluded that the place might be worth a hundred dollars, and laid a piece of college scrip costing that amount on one quarter section of the land for a friend of his. The friend declined the investment at cost, and the surveyor finally paid him the one hundred dollars with interest. Hon. H. C. Wait, of St. Cloud, subsequently (thinking the surveyor might have got a good location), invested forty dollars in the land where the mills and central part of the town now are, but becoming tired of his bargain in 1867, sold the land to Wright at cost (one dollar and twenty-five cents per acre) and interest. Before this time R. J. Mendenhall had entered the quarter section south of the river, and various other parties still later entered the other lands in the vicinity. Even down to the spring of 1870 there was good government land subject within half a mile of the falls.

As in the days of old, men sometimes even now "see visions and dream dreams," and in 1868 Ernest Buse had a vision of a "coming city," and traveled several months in this portion of the state in search of the picture which his dreams had placed before him. One day (previous to four o'clock p. m.) his enraptured eyes beheld the beautiful valley of Red river and the "falls." It was a clear case of "love at first sight." The dream was fulfilled—Eureka! or (in Dutch) words to that effect!

Long before that time, however, had the writer looked upon the scene without enthusiasm. He was alone—tired—hungry (the mosquitoes were hungry also), and a long way from his mother. Whitford's deserted cabin and "deserted village" did not inspire lively thoughts. Hard tack and cold water are not as exhilarating as a champagne supper. But a blanket and knapsack, tired frame and the murmur of waters made a good combination for sleep. So he slumbered quietly one dark night, and on the morrow went his way, not rejoicing to any alarming degree, but impressed with a profound conviction that here would be a town "in a hundred years, if nothing happened" to prevent. Rash prediction, no doubt, but true.

In August, 1870, work commenced. On the 19th day of that month a party of surveyors and laborers arrived, and pitched their tent on the north side of the river, near what is now the central part of the town. About sunset of that day these weary pioneers, looking across the river, saw on the south side a large, meditative black bear—a lineal descendant of the residents of Fergus in the olden time, that seemed to be musing upon the glorious past, and foreseeing evils for his race bruin in the future, "lit out" for a more secure retreat, and then and there bade a final adieu to one of his favorite haunts.

And now reader (ungentle) good-bye. If you have come thus far you are ready to rejoice with me that this is—the end.

THE STORY OF KNUT O. HARRIS.

It was a matter of pure chance that brought me into Fergus Falls rather than to some other towns of the upper country as one of the early settlers. I started from Adams county, Wisconsin, the last of May, 1871, with eight other families and all bound for the Red river country, which was all we knew. It was a delightful trip, and my wife, who had been sick for a long

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time, picked up health amazingly. We got to the Pomme de Terre, crossing on the 6th of June, and nobody knew exactly what to do next or where to go. Some wanted to go to Fergus Falls, others wanted to take the road to Dayton, crossing and going up to Georgetown or farther. I wanted to go back and would, if any of the rest would have gone, for it was pretty late in the season and I did not know exactly what I was going to do after I got there. However, everybody else was going ahead.

Just a bit head the road forked, one way going left to Dayton and beyond, the other to Fergus Falls. I had an old pair of oxen, big fellows, that would go as far as a horse and keep it up. So I said to the others, "I'll tell you what I'll do, if you will agree to it, and follow. I'll give the oxen their head and go whichever way they'd decide to take." They all agreed, for nobody knew any more about the country than I did. I started the oxen and gave them their own way when they got to the fort. They did not hesitate at all, but struck straight into the Fergus Falls road.

So we came to Fergus Falls, and that is how I came here instead of somewhere down the Red river on the flats. We camped that night in the bend of the river near where Hanson's tannery later stood. The next day our first sight of the coming city was an awful one. It not only rained but it snowed. That is the truth, though it was the 7th of July. It was a chilly and unhappy beginning. That summer we sent to Morris and to Otter Tail City for lumber. I built the house E. J. Webber afterwards bought from me on Cavour avenue near the central school. After a time I bought into the firm of Couse & Hammer, taking the place of Couse. Afterwards I bought Mr. Hammer's share. Jake Austin and myself were mostly in rivalry in the buying of muskrat skins and Mr. Pickitt also bought furs. The first one I bought was a mink, so the man said, and wanted fifty cents for it. He said he had been offered twenty-five cents for it. I did not know a mink skin from a dog skin then, but I gave him his fifty cents just as an experiment and the next day the buyer came along and gave me four dollars and a half. So I concluded nobody could lose much on that sort of traffic whether he knew anything about the skin or not, and bought steadily. I remember I got so many at one time that the store would not hold them all, so I had to put a lot upstairs at my house, and how the family kicked at the smell. We used to have runners out on the street to capture the trappers as they came to town. Everybody had money and trade was brisk.

THE STORY OF G. O. DAHL.

I arrived in Alexander in 1869. About the first of April, that spring, I came to Otter Tail county, where my father, who had moved here in 1887, had a homestead on section 12, in Tumuli township. The next day I walked to Fergus Falls, but found it impossible to cross the river and went

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back to Tumuli. That was my first glimpse of the promised city. I looked the country over a bit and finally went back to Alexandria, where I worked at my trade until 1870, when I came again and took a homestead in St. Olaf. I sold the right after a few months and in the same year again came to Fergus Falls. I contracted for a lot from Mr. Bacon, at the corner of Bismark and Mill street, where Mr. Conklin's house afterwards stood, but again changed my mind and went back to Alexandria, where I remained in business from 1872 to 1874. Then I came here again, selling out my Alexandria business. Mr. Wick and myself rented the Buffalo house, which was a hotel, sixteen by twenty-one feet, standing on the present site of the old Fergus Falls National Bank building, from George Head, and went into business. After one year we bought the Jacob Austin stock and building. where Mr. Frankovitz's hardware now stands, paying six thousand and two hundred dollars for the buildings, and with Messrs. Hammer and Wick remained in business until 1881.

In those days there was some money in the country but it was largely in muskrat skins. The country was full of muskrats and they were the principal means of barter. When we saw a man coming with a bag of rats on his shoulder we would run two blocks to get a chance to buy from him. It was profitable, for we usually paid in trade and then sold the skin at a large advance, thus making money both ways.

In the spring of 1875 we sold ten thousand skins, which we had been buying all winter. We paid from five cents to eighteen cents per skin, according to the quality and size, but when they were sold a skin was a skin and all were sold at the uniform price of thirty-two cents. A mink was worth from three to seven dollars. Some days we took in as many as two hundred skins. There was some money, too. We hauled wheat to Campbell, although it was sometimes hauled to Perham. There were only small patches of land cultivated anywhere in the county. We dealt in cattle also. Hammer usually sold them to Fort Garry (Winnipeg, Canada), and drove them overland to that place. Some years it paid and some years it did not. The duty had to be paid in St. Vincent (on the Canada-United States border) in gold. The great trouble in those days was to get the goods. The freight rates were high and sometimes there would fairly be a famine on some one thing. I remember one Saturday night we got a lot of boots and shoes. There had not been any in town for weeks and half of the people were walking on their uppers waiting for that invoice. When we opened the boxes it looked like a side show. The people crowded around and there was no use in trying to mark the goods or do anything else except handing out and taking the money that was offered. We tried to charge enough.

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We sold forty pairs that night after supper. My record does not include any hair-breadths nor adventures, but I cannot say that I remember any hardships except those inevitable to such a new country.

THE STORY OF T. A. HUFF.

I had heard of the Red river country of Minnesota before 1871, and when I reached St. Paul and learned that there was a land office at Alexandria, I concluded to make that my next point in the hope of finding out more about the government lands. This was in March, 1871. The St. Paul and Pacific railroad, as it was then called, was completed as far as Benson. From there I went on foot to Alexandria. There I found Sam H. Nichols, who was occupying a position in a land office, and he kindly gave me the information desired, and directed my attention to the coming city of Fergus Falls and the country round about. At Pomme de Terre I fell in with George B. Wright, W. C. Bacon and Bert Melville, who were on their way to Fergus and had engaged a man by the name of Heald to drive them over. I was glad to make one of the party and took passage with them. This was the only time I ever met Mr. Wright, but I saw Mr. Bacon often and found him a fine business man. Mr. Melville was a lawyer and a somewhat erratic character, whose stay in Fergus was short. At Fergus I put up at Buse's hotel and here formed the acquaintance of one Reed, who had taken a claim in Elizabeth east of Condaux's and near a small lake which was afterwards called Reed lake.

THE GREAT INDIAN SCARE OF 1876.

In the week of July 16, 1876, a remarkable Indian scare occurred in western Minnesota, extending the entire length of the state. It was strange and remarkable because it was entirely without good reason. The explanation of this fright was the presence of parties of the Chippewas and other bands of Indians strolling through the country at a time when the people had just heard of the defeat and massacre of Custer's command, a thousand miles to the west of the state. The presence of these Indians, though it was not unusual at that season of the year, naturally caused nervousness and fear on the part of the citizens. This section of the state was at that time sparsely settled by people of various nationalities, all of whom, more especially women and children, had associated the name of Indian with the most cruel barbarities. At a time like that, therefore, the news of the Big Horn disaster being just received, it is not to be wondered at that there should be a panicky feeling, especially, when a nervous settler comes driving home from a neighboring village with the most exaggerated reports of depredations of Indians. It is not to be wondered at that the average farmer, in his lonely situation, should be mindful of the fears of his wife and chil-

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dren, and hastily pack up and leave for a safer location, carrying panic and exaggeration with him. Such was the condition of things in this section at that time. In many cases houses and fences were left open and the fleeing refugees were entirely without the necessities of life.

On this occasion one hundred families fled to Herman one night, mostly from Grant county, when a dispatch was sent to the *St. Paul Pioneer Press* announcing "Indians at Pomme de Terre; depredation reported in St. Olaf; Fergus Falls alive with savages." About the same number started for Alexandria, mostly from Otter Tail county, some of whom were turned back by citizens of Douglas county, who assured the refugees there was no danger. The people of Aurdal and Friberg townships mostly came to Fergus Falls for protection. In this village some nervous men and women passed several sleepless nights. The Pelican valley was in a state of alarm and settlers gathered in the villages. And yet there were no depredations committed by the Indians anywhere in this state so far as the record shows.

While some were fleeing from an imaginary foe, a few of the hardy and courageous citizens, among whom were several ex-soldiers of Tordenskjold, including Hans Juelson and Berg O. Lee, rallied their neighbors, and selecting a commanding position on the north of the road, between Berg O. Lee and Hancke's, constructed a substantial sod fortification on scientific plans. This fortification was a structure of one hundred and twenty by one hundred feet with a cross section wall through the center. The walls of this fort were from four to four and a half feet high, and four feet thick, squarely and compactly built from the sods cut by a sixteen-inch breaking plow. The hilltop occupied by the work had less than half an acre of comparatively level ground, all of which was plowed up and the sod used in construction. The entire work was inclosed by a fence to keep the cattle away. This remarkable fortification stood on a hill at the west end of Turtle lake.

It was said by those who have seen fortification that it was a more formidable earthwork than many of those constructed by the armies in the Civil War. The force within this fortification consisted of about fifty or one hundred men under command of Captain Juelson, with arms, ammunition, provision and water, and sufficiently manned and equipped to keep the entire Sioux nation at bay. The building of this fort, as an exhibition of military skill and courage, was far better than running away from home and fireside. It reflected credit upon the yeomanry of Tordenskjold and Norman, of whose pluck and energy it stood as an enduring monument. In turning the sod of this fort historic relics of early ages were disclosed by the breaking plow, when it unearthed some Indian graves, breaking the bones of the buried dead into small fragments.

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At this time the citizens of Norwegian Grove, the northwestern township of the county, held a meeting and as a preliminary measure sent abroad for arms with which to defend themselves. They also employed a scout at big wages, whose duty it was to traverse the country to the west and north and warn the people of any approaching danger.

There was a good deal of indignation in this county against the parties responsible for setting afloat the false reports about the presence and depredations of Indians, a report which caused thousands of people serious fright and great inconvenience.

Some families actually sold their possessions for a song and left the country. It was said by a prominent public official of the county at that time that this Indian scare damaged Otter Tail county more than fifty thousand dollars.

A PRAIRIE FIRE.

One of the most remarkable instances of suffering and loss by prairie fire occurred October 18, 1876. The *Fergus Falls Journal,* in giving an account of this fire, said:

"Auden Johnson and H. P. Stevens, who resided near Wall lake, in Dane Prairie, while on their way to Campbell station with an ox team loaded with wheat, saw a furious prairie fire coming from the southeast. They thought it quite distant, but deemed it prudent to set a back-fire. But the advancing flames came upon them so rapidly that before they succeeded in lighting a match in the wind the demon was upon them. Their frightened teams became unmanageable and ran from the fire and the men at first directed their efforts to save their teams as well as themselves. Seeing their attempts were in vain, they finally threw themselves on their faces in the grass, and the roaring mad sea of fire passed over them. It was a terrible moment. Mr. Stevens gives a very intelligent account of the case. He says they deliberately fell on their faces, knowing it was their only hope, but for some time they abandoned all hope of their lives.

"The fire having passed, the men were in the most pitiable condition. They were badly burned all over their bodies, particularly on their hands and faces, which were a mass of blisters, while their eyes were swollen shut. In this suffering condition, they were found in the evening by a man passing with a horse team, who brought them into Fergus Falls to the homes of friends for medical attention.

"One of the teams was overtaken in high grass and prostrated by the fire and so badly burned that they will probably die. The other team reached a point where the grass was lighter and was not so seriously burned. The wagons were more or less injured and the wheat badly damaged."

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GOLD IN OTTER TAIL COUNTY.

There are few people in Otter Tail county who remember the excitement caused by the report that gold had been found in paying quantities in Leaf Mountain township. In the spring of 1877 the county papers and the state papers as well were carrying an item to the effect that gold had been discovered in the "Leaf mountains." An extract from the *St. Paul Dispatch*, reprinted in the *Perham Independent* on May 2, 1877, has the following to say of the reported discovery:

"Samuel H. Nichols, clerk of the supreme court, is in receipt of a letter from a friend at Fergus Falls, in which he says of the reported gold discoveries near there: 'Great gold discoveries in the Leaf mountains. Postmaster Dahlmer, a miner for four years, takes out fifty cents to the pan, pure gold. He says he is satisfied that there is a large amount of gold there, and proposes to make a call for old miners to prospect. Don't go to the Black Hills.' Dahlmer is here today and says the color is in paying quantities."

How long the excitement lasted and who was responsible for the discovery that the reported gold was nothing but "fool's gold" has not been ascertained. However, it is safe to say that the man who blasted the hopes of those who thought an El Dorado had been found in the county was looked upon as little short of a traitor. Otter Tail county has produced plenty of gold since that time, but it has not come from mining. It is from its fertile hillsides and valleys that the farmer has reaped that which he looked for in vain in the bowels of the earth.

THE FIRST LAW FIRM IN FERGUS FALLS.

Lawyers may come and lawyers may go, but some go sooner than others. It was forty-five years ago this summer that the first law firm in Fergus Falls came into existence and one member of this first firm is still practicing in the city. In an old ledger, yellow with age and mellow with time, the historian found the following interesting document, a contract which carries with it its own explanation:

Fergus Falls, July 5, 1871.

Be it remembered, on this 5th day of July, A. D. 1871, that we, the undersigned, attorneys-at-law, have entered into a general co-partnership under the firm name and style of Melville & Mason, on the following conditions: 1st, said firm to commence business on the day above written; 2nd, to remain the same under said name and style for one year from said date; 3rd, each member to receive an equal share of all fees; 4th, to defray equally, all necessary expenses for the maintenance and convenience of said firm; 5th, to engage strictly in the practice of law; 6th, each pledges himself upon his honor to attend strictly to business in an honorable manner.

BERT MELVILLE.
J. W. MASON.

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This firm was not destined to remain intact for the reason that he whose name headed it failed to live up to the sixth condition of the contract. Wine and women, if not song, were responsible for the dissolution of the firm and, while Mason proved his right to be classed as one of the best lawyers in the city, his partner severed his allegiance with Blackstone and became a follower of Bacchus. Long years ago he left the city where he might have become a useful citizen and a leading lawyer, but the other member of the firm has lived to become one of the best lawyers and at the same time one of the most highly respected citizens of Fergus Falls. Today Hon. John W. Mason is the oldest member of the local bar and a man whose career has been such that future chroniclers may say of him—"The life of such a man does not go out; it goes on."

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